

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER.

AN amusing incident occurred recently which should be a warning to Anglo-Indians in London, writes an English contemporary. Two police whistles had been obtained, through the aid of one of the force, for transmission to India. Thoughtless ladies and gentlemen tried the whistles in the drawing-room at nine or ten o'clock at night and then parted without reflecting on the possible consequences. Meanwhile, five or six policemen were rushing through the neighbouring streets, anxious to discover the locality of the burglary or fire, which was supposed to have originated the whistling. They arrested one man for travelling in an omnibus without the necessary pennies, but let him go again on hearing a last and crowning whistle from the end of the street. Meanwhile, the very policeman who had supplied the whistles was the most active of all the perspiring guards of the public peace, until at last his beat was over and he retired to rest. The truth dawned upon him, and he uttered an exclamation which may be dropped into oblivion.

The *Liberal* is doubtful about the accuracy of our information regarding the genesis of poisonous snakes, and asks for our authority. We shall for the present refer him to Sir Joseph Fayrer's 'Thanatophidia.'

A LETTER arrived in Paris some forty or fifty years ago directed to "The Greatest Poet of the Century." The postal authorities decided to deliver it to Victor Hugo. Hugo sent it at once to Lamartine, Lamartine returned it to Hugo, who, however, persisted in his refusal to take delivery of it; and it is not known how the matter ended. Postmaster English, of Newhaven, recently received a letter with an enclosure from Ohio which confronts him with a still more embarrassing problem than that of weighing the claims of rival poets. The superscription is: "Please hand the enclosed unopened to the most beautiful and intelligent young lady in Newhaven of from eighteen to twenty-four years old." The postmaster has wisely refrained from accepting the role of Paris, the son of Priam; but it is understood that if the most beautiful and intelligent young lady in Newhaven will call for it the letter will be handed to her. It is thought that there will be a good many callers at the post-office.

SOME curious statistics have just been published concerning the salaries given to members of Parliament in various foreign countries. To begin with France, the senators and deputies receive the same remuneration—namely, £1 sterling a day. In Belgium each member of the Chamber of Representatives gets £17 a month. In Denmark the members of the Landsthum are paid about 15s. a day. In Portugal, the Peers and Commons are given the same sum, which is £67 a year. In Sweden the members of the Diet receive £66 for a Session of four months, but they have to refund a fine of 12s. for every day's absence. That is not a bad idea. In Switzerland the members of the National Council get 10s. per diem, and those of the Council of State from 6s to 10s. In the United States Congressmen are paid £208 a year, and are allowed an indemnity for travelling expenses. In Norway the members of the Storting receive 14s. a day during the Session, which lasts about six weeks. In Italy the senators and deputies are not paid, but they are allowed travelling expenses and certain privileges. In Spain the members of the Cortes are also unpaid, but enjoy many advantages and immunities. In Greece the senators get £20 a month and the deputies £10. In Germany the representatives receive an average of 10s. a day. In Austria the pay is the same as in France, £1 a day. England is the only country where members of Parliament are not only unpaid, but have no right to privileges.

A CLOCK recently patented in France is in imitation of a tambourine, on the parchment head of which is painted a circle of flowers, corresponding to the hour figures of ordinary dials. On examination two bees, one large and the other small, are discovered crawling among the flowers. The small bee runs rapidly from one flower to another, completing the

circle in an hour, while the large one takes twelve hours to complete the circle. The parchment is unbroken, and the bees simply laid upon it, but two magnets connected with the clockwork inside the tambourine move just under the membrane, and the insects, which are of iron, follow them.

TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER.

THE bones of the discoverer of America are to be once more removed, as if they had not yet earned rest. When Columbus died he first found a resting-place at Valladolid. But it was not for long. In seven years his remains were taken to Seville, and in 1536 across the ocean to Hayti, where they were deposited in the Cathedral of San Domingo. In 1795 it was thought to be high time that the bones of Columbus were disturbed again, and they were taken to Havana, in Cuba. Now after a further rest of a hundred years, a fresh transfer is to be made, and Genoa, the navigator's birth-place, will finally claim its own.

THE Yoke of Journalism:—In the current number of *Macmillan's Magazine* there is an amusing paper on letters as a profession. Here are the writer's views on journalism:—"You will take the advice of one who has worn the yoke and escaped from it with feelings of unmixed joy, you will not take service on the daily press. At its best it is slavery: more or less honorable it may be; more or less remunerative; but slavery it is and must be. As for the editors, they, of course, are all honorable men; and some of them can, no doubt, make, and do make, matters more agreeable to their contributors than other. But the editor of a daily paper cannot by the very reason of his existence afford to dispense the milk of his human kindness in too liberal a measure. He must be a dictator, and all his men obey him. An independent writer—one who recognizes that there are moments when the leopard not only can but must change his spots, and can find no other total for two and two but four—is as fatal to the staff of a daily newspaper as an independent member of Parliament is fatal to his party. There are no doubt contributors whom a sagacious editor will not unduly meddle with; there are subjects and seasons whereon and wherein he may find it convenient to allow a larger, if not complete, license. But it can never be safe to count upon these "heaven-sent moments" for the exercise of journalistic skill. A veteran will not expect them; an apprentice will almost certainly be disappointed if he does. Let him who is not prepared to place body and soul at the call of his editor keep clear of the daily newspapers while there is a boot unbraced and a crossing unswept in London. Let me guard myself against any misconception. I do not wish to declaim. A daily paper must be conducted on these principles, or it must cease to exist. An editor must be a despot—nay, a tyrant. I had never myself the privilege of serving under John Delane, but I know many who had. He was the most tyrannical who ever sat in an editor's chair; but he was a great tyrant, a wise tyrant. Said one who knew him well, "he was created by Heaven to edit the *Times*."—*St. James's Gazette*.

IN the Pitti Palace, at Florence, is a table which, for originality in the matter of construction and ghastliness in conception, is probably without a rival. It was made by Giuseppe Sagatti, who passed several years of his life in its manufacture. To the casual observer it gives the impression of a curious mosaic of marbles of different shades and colours, for it looks like polished stone. In reality it is composed of human muscles and viscera. No less than a hundred bodies were requisitioned for the material. The table is round and about a yard in diameter, with a pedestal and four claw feet, the whole being formed of petrified human remains. The ornaments of the pedestal are made from the intestines, the claws with hearts, livers, and lungs, the natural colour of which is preserved. The tabletop is constructed of muscles artistically arranged and it is bordered with upwards of a hundred eyes, the effect of which is said to be highly artistic, since they retain all their lustre and seem to follow the observer. Sagatti died about fifty years ago. He obtained his bodies from the hospitals and indurated them by impregnation with mineral salts. To add

to the horror which such a piece of furniture is calculated to inspire in the minds of most people, the fate of Count Rittaboca, its last owner, may be related. One Christmas Eve he and his friends were playing cards on this table, when suddenly he jumped up, pale and agitated, overcome by the fixed gaze of these petrified eyes. Yielding to a sudden attack of violent mania, he stabbed himself and upon the table. His heirs, as may be imagined, were very pleased to sell this funeral object to the Government, who installed it in its present situation.

WEDNESDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER

A RAIN OF FISH.—The Saharanpore correspondent of the Lahore paper, writing on the 29th ultimo, reports heavy showers there daily, and adds:—"In connection with some of the recent rain-showers a phenomenon has been described—of which the narrators are very certain, and there seems no reason to doubt them—that the clouds have discharged rain and also small fish! which fish have been seen and picked up in at least two of the compounds here. A fable of the kind is of long standing, and has been looked upon as a 'stretcher'; but some of your scientific readers may be able to account for it. I do not add a personal reminiscence told me by one who saw a mahaseer from the clouds flop on the roadway before him."

THE Chenab Canal, which was opened in July last, was designed for the irrigation of a portion of the high ground of the Rechna Doab. The tract to be irrigated is situated on the western edge of the uplands, and extends about 56 miles, from a little below Ramnagar in the Gujranwala district to a little below Sealkot in the Jang district. The total area open to irrigation is about 880 square miles, and the soil is throughout of good quality. The upper portion of the tract has a fair proportion of villages, but the lower portion is now mostly waste lands covered with scrub jungle, although, from the deserted sites of towns and villages to be seen it is evident that at one time this tract was both populous and well cultivated. The channels now ready for irrigation are 20 miles of main line, including the supply channel, 28 miles of the kot Nikka branch, and 57½ miles of Rajbahas. Sixteen miles of the Hafizabad branch are also ready for water, and the completed Rajbahas all command village-lands where a demand for water may at once be expected.

A LOCAL CONTEMPORARY (*A. B. Patrika*) notices a case in which a wretch of the name of Humusji Jamsetji filed a suit to obtain a divorce from his wife, Kolibai, on the ground that she was a helpless invalid. He stated that in the last twelve years he had spent about Rs. 1,200 in trying to get her cured, but failed to secure any improvement in her condition. It appears that the brute had cohabited with the lady for many years before she fell ill. It is not often that we meet with instances of such inhumanity, and it was to prevent it that the Hindu Sastras made divorce so extremely difficult of attainment. The advocates of marriage reform should take this case into their most earnest consideration, if they have any spark of humanity left in them. Mr. Hammie, Judge of Surat, we are glad to find, dismissed the plaint with costs.

A LONDON correspondent of a contemporary writing on Aug. 18 says:—"I was talking yesterday to a leading politician on the Gladstonian side, and I asked him what his view of the situation was. He replied, 'What I should like to see is that Lord Hartington and all the other Unionists, except Chamberlain, go over bodily to the Conservatives.' 'Why?' I asked. 'Because,' he said, 'it would make the Conservative party even more Liberal than it now professes to be, and as a consequence we should become more advanced.' There is something to be said in favour of this view of the matter; but I am not sure that an alliance such as that advocated by my Radical friend would be greatly to the advantage of the advanced party as he imagines. It may be true as Conservative politicians, and Conservative papers, tell us every day, that the Conservative party is quite as Liberal as the Liberal party was before Mr. Gladstone pronounced for Home Rule, but there is no sign that the

Gladstonians as a whole are yet prepared to go much further than they have gone at present in the shape of heroic measures. In some matters Mr. Gladstone is more conservative than Lord Randolph Churchill, but, of course, when Mr. Gladstone disappears from the scene, the case will be different.

THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER.

OPIUM SMUGGLING—The Government of India having ruled, that it is impossible to introduce any change in the system in force in the neighbouring Native States, it remains to consider what steps should be taken in the Central Provinces to meet the growing evil of opium smuggling. The Chief Commissioner, as at present advised, is altogether opposed to the reduction of the issue price of opium. He would only accept this as the last remedy possible. The efforts to prevent and punish smuggling must not be relaxed. The Chief Commissioner would be prepared to receive favourably any well-considered scheme for increasing the preventive establishment, especially if it were made their principal duty to keep a careful watch upon the licensed contractors, who are probably either themselves the chief offenders or largely implicated in abetting the actual smugglers. In regard to prosecutions, he desires to reiterate the warning given last year against encouraging the fabrication of false cases by giving large rewards in petty cases where the opium seized is of trifling quantity. Mr. Mackenzie has heard more than one officer express his dissatisfaction with this class of cases. It is dangerous to make the reward disproportionate to the amount of opium confiscated unless there is the clearest proof of habitual smuggling. The Chief Commissioner does not consider that the petty smuggler should be allowed to offend with impunity; but he would prefer to see the efforts of the police and informers specially directed against wholesale smuggling.

A CLEVER American scientific chemist, Mr. Fairchild, has succeeded in obtaining from the pancreas, or abdominal sweetbread, its pure active digestive principles, which will digest any kind of food outside the body. He has prepared these principles in two forms—one solely for peptonising milk for infants and invalids, and the other for universal use. The former is called Peptonising Powders (Fairchild), and the latter Zymine Extractum Pancreatis. "I believe the problem of infant feeding is solved," says the great Dr. Keating of the peptonising powders. With the latter agent every conceivable dietary can be supplied, and the weakened or diseased digestive organs given rest. Milk gruels, custards, blancmanges, cooling, delicious, peptonised milk-lemonade for the fever-stricken, toothsome jellies made with fruit juices, lemons, &c., and savoury meat soups and teas can all be prepared freshly peptonised without trouble by anyone. By this comparatively new discovery the ravages of disease are brought a thousandfold more within scientific control, and the sick man supplied with a diet as relishing and safe as any ever enjoyed by man in perfect health.—*Family Doctor, London.*

DR. MARTINEAU, a celebrated French physician, claims that carbonate of lithia and arseniate of soda in aerated water, used to the exclusion of other drinks, is an almost infallible cure for diabetes.

RUMOURS FROM the frontier state that serious hostilities are impending between the people of Swat and Buner on the one hand and Bajour on the other. As usual the quarrel is a dispute over the religious authority of certain rival chiefs or mullahs.

ON the consideration of the Indian Budget by Parliament, Mr. S. Smith intends to move: "That the financial condition of India continues to give grounds for anxiety, and that there is urgent need for economy; and also that the increasing consumption of alcoholic drinks calls for a change in the licensing system in the interests of sobriety."

A MILITARY Committee is now sitting at Simla to consider how far grass-cutters are a necessity with military camps. Great efforts have been made during the past two years to reduce the number of camp-followers and the amount of camp equipage required during operations in the field; and if the army of grass-cutters, we are told, could be entirely dispensed with, a very serious encumbrance would be removed.

THE successor to the Rajah of Bikanir, who died last month, is a boy only 7 years of age, the younger brother of the late Chief. There was serious trouble in the Bikanir State a few years ago, owing to quarrels between the Rajah and his Thakurs, which resulted in an armed rebellion, and General Gillespie was sent with a British force to restore order. Subsequently enquiry was made by the political officers into the causes of the quarrel, and arrangements were made which have worked satisfactorily to date.

MR. Ferguson has given notice that next session he will call attention to the immigration of destitute aliens into England as a question urgently demanding consideration, and will move that a select committee be appointed to investigate the extent and results of such immigration, to report on the measures taken by other States to deal with it, and to suggest remedies which may be applied in this country to any evils that may be found to exist.

FRIDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER.

SIR Charles Sargent, Chief Justice of Bombay, has been granted privilege leave for three months, from the 12th of November next.

WOMEN are now being admitted into Theological Schools in America, and allowed to take degrees. A lady, named Marion Murdock, of Homhold Town, who prosecuted her studies at the Meadville Theological School, has just received the Degree of Divinity. This is said to be the first instance of the conferring of this degree upon a woman.

THE number of female physicians in New York is something over eight score. The extent of their practice ranges from a small sum to 15,000 dols. a year. Half-a-dozen of the number enjoy incomes of 10,000 dols. per annum.

THE agitation which resulted in the English Criminal Law Amendment Act of last year has crossed the Atlantic and borne fruit in New York State, where, at the last July session of Legislature, a law was passed raising the age of consent from fourteen years to eighteen in the case of men, and from twelve to sixteen in the case of women. A not less important section of the new law holds both ministers and magistrates responsible if they marry persons under age without making due inquiry into the truth of affirmations of persons presenting themselves for wedlock. Hitherto the law has been extremely lax in this important respect.

AT the Glasgow Exhibition next year there will be a special women's section to show exactly what share women bear in the manufactures and industries of the world at the present time. Not only is needle-work to be exhibited, but such mechanical branches as feather-dressing, bookbinding, fishing tackle manufacture, glove-making, and the like. Decorative industries including carving, brass-work, painting and engraving, will find a place, as will feminine hygienic clothing; but all old-fashioned and inartistic fancy work, such as crotchet antimacassars, Berlin wool work, &c., will be excluded.

INDIAN ENGINEERING LEARNS that the success of the Port Canning boring so far has induced the hope, in the minds of those guiding the affairs of the Suburban Municipality, that a supplementary water supply might be obtained from underground sources, and thus meet a difficulty that is now exercising public opinion in the Indian metropolis. A proposal will, adds the paper, be shortly brought forward for a trial of deep boring.

IN a recent number of the *Lancet*, Dr. Thomas Oliver speaks favourably of the effects of kola paste in the treatment of heart disease. Its efficiency, we are told, as a nerve tonic has long been recognised in those places where the fruit abounds. By the inhabitants of such it is employed as an antidote to alcohol; men who are so intoxicated as to be rendered incapable of walking straight are said to become sober and recover their normal gait from within half an hour to one hour after taking the drug.

ON the 3rd of August last a lively scene took place in the Legislative Council, West Australia, during the discussion of the supplementary Estimates, which had been the cause of prolonged debates. The Colonial Secretary (Sir Malcolm Fraser) asserted that never during all the years he had sat in the House had he heard so much rot, twaddle, and balderdash as during the session. To this strong expression of opinion several members retorted warmly, characterising the language used as unparliamentary. Lastly Mr. Hensman attacked Sir Malcolm Fraser. Under the responsible Government, he said, the honourable member would not have dared to address such words to the members of that House. He further stated that the Colonial Secretary lived in a coward's castle. A tremendous uproar ensued. Sir Malcolm Fraser and Mr. Warton (the Attorney-General) shouting, "Withdraw, withdraw," while Mr. Hensman endeavoured to make himself heard above the din. At last the Chairman commanded the contending parties to cease their clamour, and demanded the withdrawal of the offensive words from Mr. Hensman, who finally complied, and order was restored.

THE Honorable Sir John Edge has accepted the Vice-Chancellorship of the Allahabad University.

SATURDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER.

SAYS the *Times of India*:—"Who will pay the heavy costs in the Wilson Case? The Government, promised, we believe, to pay 'all reasonable costs' should Mr. Wilson be successful. The case was, as we know, referred to the Secretary of State for final decision, and the Secretary of State has pronounced in Mr. Wilson's favour. He thinks—so we read in his despatch to Lord Reay,—'that up to the date of his leaving India Mr. Wilson should receive the full pay and allowances of the appointment which he held under your Government at the time of his suspension, and that subsequent to that date he should be treated as on ordinary furlough.' This quashes his suspension altogether, and would apparently, and by inference, leave the payment of costs to the Government of Bombay. This is a good opportunity of making known the fact, which has not transpired before, that in his memorial to the Secretary of State Mr. Wilson begged to be permitted to retire upon a proportionate pension as it would be impossible for him to serve under the Bombay Government. This course, as the Secretary of State explains, is in accordance with the wishes of Mr. Wilson himself, and due only to the 'altogether exceptional circumstances of the case.'"

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, M. P., has undertaken a commission from Messrs. Macmillan to contribute to their series of "Men of Action." Sir Richard has selected Lord Lawrence, perhaps—having regard to official connexion with that great man. The honourable gentleman will spend the recess in Bohemia.

ON THE whole, says the *World*, Lord Dufferin is very sanguine, and considers the money spent in the subjection of Burmah will make a splendid return to the taxpayer as the people settle down under British rule. We have grave doubts about the matter.

A MEETING of the Senate of the Bombay University was held on Thursday at the Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Hall, Mr. Justice West, Vice-Chancellor, in the chair. Dr. R. N. Khory moved the following proposition of which he had given notice:—"That the degree of M. B. be substituted for L. M. & S., subject to the following conditions:—(1) That the subject of Zoology, as now taught in the Grant Medical College, be added to the list of subjects prescribed for the degree of L. M. & S. (2) That candidates be required, before going up for the first medical degree, to pass in the English paper set in the Previous Examination along with candidates for that examination." In support of his motion, Dr. Khory made a long speech, dwelling on the necessity of the change in the degree, principally on the ground that those who pass the medical examination of the Bombay University entitle themselves by their acquirements to some better recognition than that which has hitherto been accorded them. The test here was as severe and rigorous as that imposed by many other Universities which grant a medical degree, and not a mere license to those who satisfy it. Dr. Atmaram Pandurang seconded the proposition. Dr. Wellington Gray moved an amendment, which was to the effect that a degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery should be instituted to be conferred on those candidates who have previously graduated in Arts or Science. Dr. Gray is of opinion that the students who passed the medical examination were not fitted by their education for anything better than a mere license. If they aspired to a degree, they must satisfy a high standard of education, which alone would enable them in their future progress in life to do any real work in sanitary science or in the science of medicine and surgery. Dr. Lyon having seconded the amendment, the meeting was adjourned till Thursday next.

ONE autumn day Frederick the Great was reviewing the annual provincial manoeuvres, and, as ill-luck would have it, everything seemed to go wrong. Finally, one division of the Hussars made such a bad blunder that the King could no longer control his wrath, but spurred his horse, raised his cane in the air, and galloped after the captain. The latter, not being anxious to feel the weight of the King's cane on his shoulders, also spurred his horse, and after a long chase succeeded in escaping. The next day the General called on the King, and, among other things, announced his regret that Captain So-and-so had sent in his resignation. He did not know why, he said, but the Captain had told him something had happened which made it impossible for him to remain. "I am sorry to lose him," the General added; "he is one of our best officers." "Indeed," said the King; "then, tell him to come to me during the parade." When the King espied the captain at the parade, he immediately rode up to him and remarked: "I have promoted you to be Major. I wanted to tell you yesterday, but you were too fast for me."

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1887.

DR. R. MITRA ON HINDU MARRIAGE.

As all the leading native papers are now discussing the question of Hindu marriage, we think the time is most opportune for the publication of some original ideas on the subject, which Dr. R. Mitra gave expression to the other day at the Sobhabazar meeting. It is the intention of the projectors of that meeting to bring out its proceedings in a pamphlet form; but, as owing to the ensuing vacation there must be some delay, we anticipate it to some extent. We are sure our readers will be gratified by a perusal of the short, but very significant, speech.

Dr. R. Mitra, in bringing the proceedings to a close, said: 'I have listened with great attention to the many excellent addresses delivered this evening; but I missed in every one of them what I thought should have come foremost. I mean an expression of opinion regarding the merits of the lecture we have heard. I must supply this omission. The lecture is an able one; it does honor to the head and heart of the learned gentleman who has done us the favor to deliver it to us. It is thoughtful, judicious, and very considerate—in every way worthy of the character of the lecturer. We may not subscribe to every opinion it contains; we may differ widely from it in some respects; but we are bound to accord to it high praise for its general merits. In saying this, I feel certain that I give expression to the opinion of every one here present. With your permission, therefore, I shall, gentlemen, in your name, convey to Mr. Shome the thanks of this meeting for his lecture (repeated cheers).

I have another remark to make about the speeches. They produced in me a sense of intense conservatism—an excessive amount of Toryism, unrelieved by any dissent. Every thing we have is good, and nothing should be done to disturb the *status quo*. This consensus of opinion is doubtless gratifying to me as a Hindu; but it is not in accord with the supreme law of nature. There is nothing in *statu quo* in the universe. Change is the order of existence. The moon we behold is a burnt-up sphere; the earth of to-day is not what it was a thousand years ago; nor was it a thousand years ago, what it had been ten thousand years before that. The layer above layer which we see on it, each of which took thousands of years to form, shows that it has changed greatly in course of time, it is still changing, and will go on changing to the end of time. The same changes have taken place in the forms, habits and manners of animal life, and the process of change will continue steadily on and on. Under the circumstances it is hopeless to expect that we shall be able to arrest change, and maintain an absolute *status quo*. The powers of nature are irresistible; they will bring on change, as time flows on, and we must, will we or nil we, yield and accommodate ourselves to our circumstances and surroundings. Our ancestors have done so all along, and we must do likewise.

My friend opposite (Pandit Haraprasad Sastri) has just told you that the Rig Veda mentions the ceremony of Svayamvara, and the inference he draws is that consensual marriages were then in vogue. I always fight shy of that Veda. It is a cornucopia that yields to its admirer whatever he desires, and no one can be sure of a general deduction from any premiss derived from it. I have found in it mention made of a sage or Rishi who married ten damsels all at once. In another place two gods, the Asvins, together took one wife. Thus you have self-choice, polygamy, and polyandry.

The digesters of this Veda, the Sutrakaras, make mention of the Rakshasa form of marriage, in which a brute seizes a damsel by her hair, and drags her away after killing or disabling her guardians and relatives, and while she screams piteously for help. This was probably the most ancient form of marriage. It is well-known that from remote antiquity

two forms of selection were current among the two great primitive nations of Central Asia; the Aryans marrying outside their tribe or Gotra, and the Turanians within the pale of their gens. The former method is called exogamy, and the latter endogamy. It may shock your sensibility to be told so, but forcible abduction was the usual form of marriage among your remote ancestors, and old Manu, while denouncing it as bestial, was obliged to admit when he wrote that it was a form of marriage and not rape. The reminiscences of this marriage still linger, among the Aryans in different parts of the earth, in some form or other. You well know that when a marriage party comes to a village, the orthodox welcome they should receive is a shower of brickbats as aggressors, and it has to be obviated by a bribe called *Delabhang*: you do not actually deliver the shower, but never fail to exact the bribe. Even in Calcutta the bribe is a regular demand, paid at every marriage, and never remitted. In some parts of the North-West and in Rajputana, the usual practice is to set up a wicker-work gateway in front of the village. This is called a *toran*, a symbol of a fort, and the bridegroom's party must assail this and knock it down before it is allowed to enter the village. This is a symbolical over-throw of the bride's guardians, and they yield up the girl in theory by *vis major*. Englishmen have done away with all tokens of ancient customs, but, as Aryans, have still a trace of this form of marriage left among them. When a bridegroom takes away his bride, the honor done him is to shy old shoes at him. It is the counterpart of the brickbats of Bengal.

This form of marriage must have ceased in its naked rudeness at an early age; in India, it was replaced by the form most admired by Manu, that of gift, or *Prajapatya*, and it obtains to this day. In it there is no selection, no self-choice, no consent on the part of the bride; she is an article of gift; she is given away, even as a book or a picture, a cow or any other chattel. (Laughter.) You may laugh at my way of putting the case before you; but it is literally true. Recall to your mind the *mantras* of marriage, and you will at once perceive that the case is one of *Dana*, and nothing more. Even in England, where so much is made of consensual marriage, the theory of gift still prevails: the father or guardian gives away the bride, and if there be no one present to make the gift, the officiating priest enacts the role of the father, and makes the gift. The ceremony of marriage cannot be gone through without this gift. Of course in England it is a mere formality now, but it is not the less significant on that account. In India, this gift is identically the same, as is done, *mutatis mutandis*, in the very words used in giving a child in *dattaka* adoption. In either case there is not the remotest idea of consent on the part of the child given. The boy becomes a son and remains irrevocably so, no matter whether the adopter is blind, or lame, or ugly, or otherwise highly repulsive. No adopted son can on any ground dissolve the adoption. He becomes, by virtue of the religious rite of adoption, of the blood and gens and family of the adopter, and must ever remain so. Even such is the case with the bride. Certain religious rites convert her into the blood, gens and family of her husband, and under Hindu law she must ever remain so. To talk, therefore, of consent is to talk nonsense. The theory of a civil contract is quite different, and stands on a lower plane. It does not enter into consideration when dealing with Hindu law.

It may be said that the Hindu law is bad, and should be rescinded. So say Christian missionaries and others, and from their standpoint they may be right; I do not care now to enquire, if they are. But I cannot permit persons to claim Hinduship who will not abide by the Hindu law. Their Hinduism depends on the laws of the Rishis, and if they decline to abide by those laws they have no *locus standi* within the pale of Hindu Society. I do not wish to control the freedom of choice of any person. Even as I have a right to do what I think proper, so have others. If a person does not like Hinduism, let him by all manner of means abjure it, and betake to Christianity, or Muhammadanism, or Brahmoism, or Agnosticism, or whatever else he

likes. Let him get up a creed of his own, if no current form of religion will suit him. Rukma Bai does not like to go to her husband because she was not asked to give her consent when the marriage with him took place; but her Hinduism declares that the bond is valid without the consent, and she must abide by her religion and family law. If she declines, she ceases to be a Hindu, and the matter ends. All I insist upon is that we should not for a moment tolerate the aggressiveness which makes some people denounce Hindu law, and still insist upon being admitted to Hindu society. This I look upon as outrageous impertinence, and you do well to protest against it. It is nonsense all to talk of the correct interpretations of our law. Whenever such interpretations have been attempted, they have given rise to new sects. The self-appointed interpreters are not the men who have any claim to our confidence, and we simply repudiate them. Of course, in resisting outside force, I say nothing about the natural law about change. That operates slowly, gradually and imperceptibly, like the growth of our body, and I have not the slightest notion of opposing it. Its action may be retarded or quickened by our surroundings—our altered circumstances and requirements—and as intelligent men we should do well to promote it, when it lies in our power to do so; but I have not language strong enough fully to denounce those who will shut the doors of our schools and colleges against those who are married early (tremendous cheers and applause). But I have already taken up much more time than what I fixed for each speaker, and so I must stop here. ("No," "no," "go on.") Pardon me, gentlemen, my allotted ten minutes have long since passed away, and I cannot. I had intended to dwell on the time of marriage, widow-marriage, and the other topics to which the different speakers have referred; but we have already sat for four hours; it is nine o'clock now; and I would require much more time to do justice to those topics than what I can now spare. I must, therefore, now convey the thanks of the meeting to the lecturer, and declare the meeting dissolved.

THE REVENUE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

FROM the Allahabad Revenue Board's Administration Report for 1885-86, we observe, that the year was, on the whole, one of moderate prosperity. The rainfall of 1885 was exceptionally heavy; but the autumn crops suffered from its early cessation; while the spring harvest was damaged by inopportune showers and strong winds in the beginning of March, 1886. Though there was no general failure of the crops, the loss from hail was so severe as to call for suspensions of revenue and rent in nine districts. The total demand for the year on account of land-revenue on the roll was, in round numbers, four and-a-quarter crores, of which 99.3 per cent. were collected. The great bulk of the balance occurred in two of the tahsils of the Aligarh district. One of these tahsils, we are told, suffered very seriously from floods, which caused much loss to the cultivating community. "In this tahsil," writes the Collector of Aligarh, "the revenue has been collected with the utmost difficulty, and has, there can be no question, been realized largely either from regular loans or from advances on the sale of that crop." But when the money-lenders who have made these advances without which the land revenue demand could not have been collected will go to court and institute suits against their debtors, they will be denounced as so many Shylocks by the Revenue Officers, and every possible obstacle will be thrown in the way of recovering their dues." "In the other tahsil the distress," says the collector, "is chronic and has been going on for some years. The distressed villages are all under direct management, and the deficiency in collections is due to a deficiency of assets. Most of these villages have now been under observation for two years, and proposals will shortly be submitted for a revision of the assessments. It has to be remembered that Aligarh adjoins districts in the Agra division in which serious balances have occurred, and in which large remissions have had to be given * * * The great bulk of the balances were, under the cir-

circumstances, necessary, and could only have been obviated by an amount of severity which could not have been justified. As will be seen later, there has been no lack of coercive processes, and had it not been for the pressure put by higher authority upon successive Collectors, even more patience might have been shown by officers, who were daily witnesses of the calamities which befel the district, to the sufferers from these calamities." The italics are ours. It is but seldom that we have an outspoken Collector like Mr. Cadell who sympathises with the people and does not hesitate to call a spade a spade. The Board of Revenue, of course, deny that pressure was put upon successive Collectors of Aligarh to exact the Government demand from revenue-payers in the distressed villages. But the public knows very well what weight should be attached to this denial. No time should be lost in reducing the assessments of the distressed villages in the Aligarh district, which was very heavily assessed at the last revision of settlement. We are glad that the matter has attracted Sir Alfred Lyall's attention, who has asked the Board to take into serious consideration the remarks of the Collector of Aligarh on the distressed condition of the agricultural classes in two of his tahsils.

The rent litigation of the year under review does not present many features that call for special comment. The numbers of suits and applications filed in 1885-86 are in excess of the numbers filed in 1883-84 and previous years, but compared with the figures of 1884-85 they show a decline of 4.92 per cent. The Lieutenant-Governor observes:—"The most remarkable feature in the return showing the fluctuations in the numbers of suits and applications under the Rent Act for the last 12 years is the great and disproportionate increase which has occurred under the latter. If the averages for the first and last five years of the period are taken, it appears that while the number of rent suits has risen from 68,838 to 74,449, or by less than 9 per cent., the increase in the number of applications has been from 34,709 to 110,000, or by more than 200 per cent., the joint increase under both classes of cases having been about 80 per cent. The proportion borne by suits to the whole number of cases in which the intervention of the courts is demanded has fallen from 67 to 40 per cent. Nearly the whole of the litigation consists of suits relating to the recovery of rent, which contributed 93 per cent. to the total number of suits, and applications connected with them furnish 84 per cent. of the whole number of applications. These figures seem to prove the superior popularity of the cheap and summary procedure by applications; and it may, perhaps, be inferred that it is now sometimes employed with effect in cases, where, when the people were less familiar with the working of the law, a regular suit would have been instituted." Although during the year under report there was a slight decrease under both classes of cases throughout the Province when compared with 1884-85, the decline is not of a kind that would support the conclusion that the limit of rent-litigation has been reached. It appears that of the 67,461 suits for arrears of rent which were decided during the year, 23 per cent. were contested; and in only 2,424 cases, or 4 per cent. of the whole number, were decrees given in favour of the defendant. The Commissioners of Benares and Allahabad recommended the introduction of printed receipts for rent. Sir Alfred Lyall has acted sensibly in refusing to give effect to this recommendation. He justly remarks that the extreme infrequency of suits, when compared with the vast numbers of the tenant population, in which the landlord's claim is rejected by the courts, may be accepted as evidence both of the general honesty with which such claims are instituted and the willingness of the tenantry to admit their just liabilities. We commend this remark to the authors of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

The work of preparing a new record-of-rights in the permanently-settled districts of the North-Western Provinces which was commenced ten years ago, has now been completed. The new records will necessarily cause a good deal of

litigation. The Board of Revenue urge that there is no reason for imputing general failure or inaccuracy to the work of the settlement department. But we cannot accept this view, unless the work has been tested by the law courts. We are told that the field-survey and revision of the village papers were undertaken not merely to provide a more correct statement of the status of the tenantry or of the rental demand, but they were also required as a record of the highest administrative and statistical benefit. The work of re-assessing the temporarily-settled districts of the provinces commenced just as the settlement proceedings in the permanently settled tracts approached completion. We are glad to find that in the revision of settlement now going on the old system of assessing on elaborately devised average rent-rates has been abandoned. These rates existed merely in the imagination of the settlement officers. The village rent-rolls, it is explained, will form the basis of assessment under the new system that has been adopted. Sad experience, however, has taught us that over-zealous settlement officers too often reject village rent-rolls as untrustworthy on one or other of the numerous theoretical grounds with which the ingenuity of their department has furnished them. The rules and regulations framed by the Government look excellent on paper; but the misfortune is that the theory does not, speaking generally, coincide with the practice.

INDIAN EXCISE AND TEA.

SIR ALFRED Lyall, in receiving the Excise Report of the United Provinces for the past year, has suggested a remedy for checking the growth of intemperance in India. The whole country has for some time past been exercised as to how the spread of drinking habits among the people might be effectually prevented. The Indian excise revenue has largely increased during the last few years; and it is self-evident that an increased revenue means an enlarged sale of liquor and consequently a wider consumption of it. Year by year larger sums are being paid for the liquor-contrabands, which clearly indicates a desire on the part of the contractors to invest their money in a profitable speculation. Surely, they would not buy these contracts for the purpose of furthering the so-called temperance policy of Government. Their object is simply to secure a good return for their outlay on their contracts. The increased revenue received by the Government satisfies it that the liquor shops are not necessarily numerous to produce this result; and we are told that the best method for putting a stop to smuggling and to promote temperance is to increase the revenue. Sir Alfred Lyall, as a sensible man, probably feels that this explanation would not satisfy those who accuse the Government of encouraging drinking habits among the Natives by bringing temptation to every man's door. In reviewing the Excise Report of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for the past year, he makes an attempt to show that the increase in revenue which is the largest on record is not the result of additional encouragement or facilities for drinking given to the people. And he then proceeds to express his belief that the demoralisation some times alleged to have been occasioned in British India by the excise laws of recent years is not to be found in any appreciable degree in his satrapy. He considers that the flourishing state of the excise revenue, despite the repressive measures adopted by the British Government, argues the existence of a strong innate craving for some stimulant among the poorer classes. Sir Alfred Lyall then becomes philosophical and propounds a remedy for the evil. He observes:—"The solution of the problem, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner, lies in the direction of counteracting, through the agency of tea, the taste for alcoholic liquors and intoxicating drugs which seems ingrained among certain large sections of the labouring community. The general effect of our Excise laws has been to diminish the facilities for obtaining such stimulants, and to place frequent indulgence in them beyond the reach of the poor man's pocket. Were

there no excise law, the villager of the central and eastern districts of the Province would certainly be able to buy the weak *mahua* liquor, which he prefers, and which in his opinion is the best specific against fever and ague in the malarious tracts—for less than two annas a bottle. Under the present excise law he cannot buy this quantity for less than eight annas, and he often has to walk long distances to obtain it. Nevertheless, among certain classes of the population the craving for some sort of stimulant is too strong for excise regulations. In other eastern countries the same classes are large consumers of tea and coffee, and it may be conjectured that had these products been indigenous to, or long cultivated in, the Indian peninsula, they would by this time have assumed as important a place in the domestic economy of Indian households as they occupy in China, Thibet or Turkestan. It is upon these considerations that the North-Western Provinces Government has endeavoured to promote, by special measures, both the sale of dry tea in small packets in the larger towns and cities of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the establishment of tea-shops on the model of European coffee-houses. Some of the larger municipalities have interested themselves in the experiment, and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has been utilized to procure good tea at wholesale rates for the retail vendors. * * * * The subject at first sight seems remote from the administration of Indian excise; but the experience of European countries has shown that it has in reality an essential connection with it."

We readily admit that among the poorer labouring classes, more particularly of the lower castes, there is a strong craving for some sort of stimulant. We do not, however, agree with Sir Alfred Lyall in thinking that this craving can be counteracted through the agency of tea. The cup that cheers but not inebriates cannot be an efficient substitute of alcoholic liquors and intoxicating drugs, which some sections of the labouring community look upon as a necessity. Sir Alfred Lyall must have a very poor knowledge of the Indian people if he thinks that the taste for spirit, *bharrag*, *ganja* and opium can be counteracted through the agency of tea. The remedy discovered by him looks excellent on paper; but it is not at all practical. We should very much like to know what success has attended the endeavours of Sir Alfred Lyall's government to promote, by special measures, the sale of dry tea in small packets in the larger towns and cities of the limited Provinces, and the establishment of tea-shops on the model of Europeans. If our information is correct, the result of these measures, has not so far been particularly hopeful and encouraging. We think that statistics showing the quantities of tea actually sold to the public under the system devised by the North-West Government should have been given in the Lieutenant-Governor's review of the Excise Report. In the absence of such information, it is impossible to say what has been the result of the experiment to which allusion is made by Sir Alfred Lyall. We hope the omission will be supplied by a special report. The public is deeply interested in the subject. The experience of European countries to which Sir Alfred attaches so much weight does not encourage the belief that the taste for alcoholic liquors can be counteracted through the agency of tea. Latitude is an important factor in this question and it has been entirely overlooked by Sir Alfred. In the United Kingdom tea is an article of universal consumption: it is used even by the poorest classes. But has the "social cup" counteracted the taste for alcoholic liquors among the English people? Those who look upon such stimulants as a necessity cannot be satisfied with a mild beverage like tea. But while holding that certain sections of the labouring community cannot do without spirits or intoxicating drugs, we must at the same time say that that fact does not afford a justification for the Indian Excise system as it is at present administered. We know very well that regulation of drink is not the same thing as stimulating it. There can, however, be no doubt that the practical working of the present Abkari policy of our Government has resulted in the spread of drinking habits among the people. Even the Bengal Excise Com-

mission have admitted in their report that there has been undoubtedly a very great increase of late years in the number of spirit-drinkers. The theory, of course, is that the aim of the excise regulations is to promote temperance, but in this, as in so many other matters, the practice does not unfortunately coincide with the theory.

BENGAL-ASSAM RAILWAY.

THE survey of the Bengal-Assam Railway has, after several years of continuous work, been at last brought to completion, and the result of the investigations is now before the public. It appears that the original idea was to continue the Dacca-Mymensing Railway to the valley of the Brahmaputra near Gauhati. That idea, in consequence of the unsatisfactory results of the reconnaissance made in 1881-82, was abandoned. It was then determined, at the suggestion of Sir Charles Elliot, then Chief Commissioner of Assam, to look for a route into Upper Assam through the North Cachar Hills, which might be combined with a line from Cachar to Chittagong, comprising a branch to the Meghna for access to Calcutta. The preliminary investigations undertaken by the Engineer-in-chief, Mr. J. W. Buyers, showed that "a practicable route can be found across the North Cachar Hills into Assam. He saw little reason to doubt that a railway, following this route, and serving, as it would, the important districts of Sylhet and Cachar, has enormous advantages over a railway simply running down the valley of the Brahmaputra, parallel throughout its length to a navigable river and commanding a narrow tract of country." Mr. Molesworth, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for State Railway, examined Mr. Buyers' project, and pronounced in favour of it. He wrote:—"It is difficult to overrate the political importance of this line to Assam in a strategical, administrative point of view. The whole line between Silchar and Golaghat, however, is virgin forest, and the population practically nil. But there are rich tracts of land suitable for the line of railway, which would be eagerly taken up if a railway were constructed, especially in the Deinapur valley, and such a line would undoubtedly revolutionise Upper Assam. As a direct route to Calcutta, such a line would possess many advantages compared with the route via Dhubri."

The detailed plans and estimate of the proposed Bengal-Assam Railway having been laid before the Government of India, they have discussed the final aspects of the project in a recently-published resolution. The first section of the line from Chittagong to Comilla would be 96½ miles long, with a branch from Laksham to Chandpur, 32 miles. It had been originally proposed to make Davoodkhandi the terminus of this branch; but after careful consideration preference was given to Chandpur as it was found to be a better post. The Bengal Government is satisfied that there is every prospect of this section proving very remunerative. The estimates of traffic originally prepared under the orders of the late Lieutenant-Governor showed that a gross revenue of over 18 lakhs of rupees might be expected from the Chittagong Railway, which would yield a net return of not less than 8 per cent. in the capital outlay. But it is now admitted that little reliance can be placed on any estimates of traffic, however carefully they may be prepared, as there are many influences at work in regulating the course of trade. The Bengal Government is not now disposed to give a confident answer as to the particular rate of interest which may be expected from the capital to be employed in this undertaking. Nevertheless, it maintains that the Chittagong Railway will pay. The length of the second section from Comilla to Badarpur would be 157 miles. Badarpur, which is 18 miles from Silchar, has been selected as the best point for the main line to cross the Surma River and enter the North Cachar Hills. The third section from Badarpur to Lumding would be 115½ miles long. A branch line would be constructed from Lumding to Gauhati with the object of opening up the valley of the Kopili and Kalong rivers, and of providing cross-communication between the Deinapur valley and the Brahmaputra, and ready access to the former for the coolies who pass between Behar and Assam. The fourth section from Lumding

to Kumarbandali runs through the Deinapur Valley, which is mostly uninhabited and covered with forest. The last section is from Kumarband Ali to Makem Junction. The original intention was that the railway should run from Golaghat to Debrugarh. The total length of the projected Bengal-Assam Railway with a branch of 18 miles from Badarpur to Silchar would be 742 miles, and the estimated cost is six and a-half crores of rupees. The Government of India, however, declines to undertake any responsibility in respect to them. It gives the public distinctly to understand that the estimates are subject to the further detailed scrutiny which would precede actual operations, and to a revision in accordance with the prices of iron and steel, and the rates of exchange, which might prevail when outlay commenced.

The question is, will the projected Bengal-Assam Railway pay? We have cited above the opinion which the Government of Bengal holds as to the prospects of the section from Chittagong to Comilla and Chandpur. The second section is estimated to yield a net return of 7.85 per cent. on the capital outlay; while it is expected that the lines from Badarpur to Debrugarh and Gauhati will pay at least 2.74 per cent. The Government of Bengal has already withdrawn its assurance that the Chittagong Railway would give a net return of 8 per cent. The calculations of net returns put forward in respect of the other sections of the Bengal-Assam Railway, are guess-work pure and simple. The Government of India observes:—"The further discussions which will be found in the reports do not seem to have thrown much new light upon the question, owing to the absence of trade-statistics for the populated districts and the impossibility of estimating the effect of railway facilities upon the course of existing trade and the capacity of the country for development. The Government of India concurs with His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal in receiving all such estimates with caution, and must leave private enterprise to form its own judgment of the undertaking upon such data as it may deem to be reliable. Fully as the Government of India recognise the importance of opening up by railway the tracts of Eastern Bengal and Assam they are not in a financial position which would justify the offer of a guarantee for a purely commercial railway, and must therefore adhere to the decision of January 1883, by which the project was classed in Schedule B., and can receive no aid from the State beyond such as is comprised in a concession under what are known as Bengal and North-Western Railway terms." The decision of the Government of India has our cordial approval. In the present financial condition of the Empire nothing could justify the offer of a guarantee for a purely commercial line like the proposed Bengal-Assam Railway. If private capitalists do not come forward to undertake its construction without a guarantee from Government, it must remain in abeyance.

THE HEALTH OFFICE.

WE are glad to note that Dr. Sanders's action in the Town Corporation is characterised by a sense of regard and sympathy for the people of this country which is worthy of all praise. He is perfectly unaffected by the virus of the Health Society and its adherents. At a meeting of the Town Council, held on Saturday before last, he moved that the office of assistant to the Health Officer should be filled by a graduate of the Calcutta University. Simple as it is in appearance this motion needed no small amount of moral courage, for it is dead set against the craze of the day which holds that the natives have no head for science. We should add that the good Doctor is not the mover for the creation of a new office, and that the creation would entail reckless waste of Municipal money. Time was when a quarter-time Health Officer was alone sufficient to keep the town in order, and Drs. Macrae, Payne, Sanders and Birch, while holding other offices, successively did the duties of the office in a satisfactory manner. Section 28 Commission, however, undid all that. It was then discovered that people

were dying by hundreds and thousands because seventy bathing platforms had not been provided, and people by bathing in the river water caught lethal disease. The platforms have long since been supplied, and the outcry has been stopped, though it is amusing to remark that the said platforms are supplied with unfiltered river water, which formerly proved so deadly. The primary object sought was of course to get up a cry to denounce the corporation, and the next sacrifice of money, and that sacrifice having been offered the Moloch was satisfied. Similarly the cry for a whole-time Health Officer meant money, and the expenditure was raised from Rupees 700 to Rs. 1,600 a month. It was alleged that a whole-time officer would be able to take charge of all analysis, but this could not be, and a chemist had to be entertained. Assistants too had to be multiplied manifold; but the *Moloch horridus* still remains unsatisfied. The demand now is that there should be two more medical assistants on Rs. 500 a month, each to visit private dwellings and superintend domestic cleanliness. The feeling was, at least in certain quarters, that these should be Europeans, who would be better able to teach the perverse natives the use of the mop, the broom, and the scrubbing brush than Indians can possibly be, and the object of Dr. Sanders was to prevent this job. We say to prevent this job, for the demand was for posts for Europeans and not natives, and if that is not met the scheme will most likely be abandoned. Those who are suffering from the unsanitary craze of sanitation in the head, will doubtless denounce us as Boetians for saying this; but in the interests of the rate-payers of Calcutta we feel bound to face it. It is obvious to us that the crazy people we allude to have no idea of proportion. They look at certain things through one end of an opera-glass, and at others from the opposite end, and consequently flounder helplessly in determining the relative urgency of the different branches of municipal duty. They fail to recognise the fact that there is a certain amount of money available, and that they must apportion that amount according to the importance of the different branches. In one sense the sole duty of the Municipality is to promote the health of the people, and the unequal treatment or neglect of any one branch is a positive infraction of the line of duty; but this condition is always governed by the means at command. For instance, it is well established in the science of sanitation that the health of a place improves according to its altitude above the sea-level, and that Calcutta would be a very healthy place if its height could be raised a couple of hundred feet or more above its present level of 27 feet above the mean level of the Bay of Bengal. From a mechanical point of view this is practicable; but we have not money enough at command for the purpose, and we look upon the project very much in the same light as the Cloudcuckoo-borough of the 'Birds' of Aristophanes. This is an extreme illustration; but the principle which underlies it is the same which governs minor matters. The great complaint of the town is that filtered water is not supplied to the people in adequate quantities, and no man who has two grains of sense to rub against each other will deny that; compared to it, the cry about the washing of domestic utensils under the superintendence of highly trained European medical men is the merest bagatelle possible, and that as long as the former is not fully met the latter should not be thought of. Take another case. The town is immensely dirty; there are heaps over heaps of filth and dirt in most of the bustees. Of late the removal of these has been greatly accelerated. It is said that the quantity removed last year was double of that in former years, and yet the quantity remaining is immense, and in the face of it those who hysterically cry about horse droppings in public streets or the medical superintendence of kitchen washings are either incapable of judging right from wrong, or are like the two men who entered Cloudcuckoo-borough for the purpose of confounding the dwellers of that place. Talking of water reminds us of a fact which is worthy of note. When the project for the extension of water supply in Calcutta was under discussion some years ago, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra recorded a minute

arguing strongly the necessity of securing at least a minimum supply of 50 gallons per head, and he was laughed at for his pains. An official Honorable Member of the Bengal Legislative Council from his place in the Council levelled his mighty battery of ridicule to demolish him, and an Act was passed which provided a smaller supply for the town as well as the Suburbs. Two years have not yet passed since the new supply has been placed at the disposal of the people, and it is already found to be totally inadequate, and this, be it remembered, without giving a portion of it to the Suburbs. When the Suburbs come in for their share, now that private tanks are mostly filled up, there will be something very like a water-famine in Calcutta. With this fact before them our Corporators should be careful how they yield to the advice of crazy people, and divert public resources to trifles. The question may be viewed from another standpoint. All things human go by comparison, and it would be well to compare Calcutta with Bombay, a much larger town than Calcutta, and to see how things are managed there. The Health Officer's pay is lower there than in Calcutta, and the establishment under that officer is kept up on a much lower scale, and since that is fully sufficient for a population of 7,50,000 persons, the question should be asked what is really necessary for a population of four lakhs in Calcutta? There is no material difference in the circumstances and the physical characters of the two places, and what is sufficient for the one should be so for the other. This is a fair and reasonable test, and we should very much like to see our Corporators apply it. Above all they should beware of hysterics and sensational tall talk, of the school of Thesens-and-Ariadne alias the Calcutta Health Society.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

THE Viceroy's levee, in Calcutta will, it is notified, be held on the 20th of December next.

LORD REAY, by order of the Queen Empress, has been invested by the Duke of Connaught with the honorable insignia of the most eminent order of the Indian Empire, of which order Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint him a Knight Grand Commander. The installation ceremony took place in the Council Hall, at Puna, on Wednesday last.

ON Wednesday last the Hon'ble Mr. Quinton presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to establish a University at Allahabad.

RAJKUMAR RAMESVAR MALLIA has contributed Rs.2,000 to the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. The gift is worthy of the noble donor. According to the terms of the gift, the donation is to be applied to the founding of a scholarship, with which Lady Dufferin's name will be associated.

PARLIAMENT has been prorogued. The Queen's speech is rose-colored. Relations with Foreign Powers are friendly; Russia, the Amir and the Afghan Boundary have ceased to give trouble; Burma 'dacoities' have been stamped out, and China is acquiescent; the Egyptian question is in *status quo*; public opinion with regard to the unification of the colonies is gaining consistency; depression of trade is less severe; the recent Government measures are calculated to restore complete order in Ireland, and the fervent loyalty of the people on the occasion of the Jubilee has been deeply touching. This is the drift of the speech. Those who read between the lines may shake their heads, but 'the true and amiable philosophy of optimism' makes us supremely indifferent, in this season of joy and festivity, to querulous criticisms of sapient seers of public affairs.

WE thought that the German Chancellor was too thick-skinned to be touched by the empty effusions of a Bulgarian print. But we see that he is too sensitive of the honor of the Fatherland to allow even Newspaper criticisms to go unpunished.

An article appeared in the *Rustchuck Journal* insulting the German consul in Bulgaria, and Germany immediately applied to the Porte for permission for three iron-clads to pass through the Dardanelles in order to go to Bulgaria to demand of her reparation for the insult. The Porte hesitates, but poor Bulgaria can ill afford to defy the wrath of Prince Bismark. She has suppressed the peccant journal.

WE have not yet heard the last of Ayub Khan. He has not yet been captured, as it was confidently expected that he would be. One report says that he has eluded all pursuit, and is coming steadily towards Herat. He is somewhere in the desert, 'suffering intensely from thirst', but the prophet's word may not fail him in his dire extremity. If the report of the Amir's dangerous illness prove correct, Ayub's star will soon be in the ascendant. The *Times of India* publishes the startling news that the gout of the Amir has extended to his thigh, and amputation of the foot, physicians say, is the only means of getting rid of the disease. In the meantime Ayub is on the road to Herat, and in spite of the 'stoning to death' which we have heard so much of, thousands will flock to his standard, as soon as it is unfurled.

THE unfortunate family disputes of Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore and his brother Raja Sir Sourindra Mohun Tagore have, for the last eighteen months, been a source of deep regret to all classes of the native community in Bengal. The numerous friends and well-wishers of the two brothers, both in India and England, felt sorely grieved at the differences which no friendly intervention could remove. Harassing litigation was resorted to to settle the points in dispute. The whole country, however, rejoiced to hear, when litigation had made some progress, that the brothers had made an amicable settlement, and that the High Court suit was withdrawn. Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun, we were glad to hear, made princely concessions to his brother, to whom, it was well known, he was greatly attached, and the disputes seemed to be at an end. The family estates were partitioned, and the family jewels were being divided. The sacred images of the family gods, and the terms of family worship, opened up the dispute again, and gave no end of trouble to the contending parties. The matter has now been settled, to the great satisfaction of the community of which the two brothers are worthy ornaments. Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun has built a palace opposite to the well-known *Baithak-khana* which he inherited from his uncle. The *pooja* this year will be celebrated in this palace in a sumptuous style. The Maharaja is loved and respected for his amiable manners and sterling worth. He had the fullest sympathy of the community, both European and native, during the family differences, and now that they have been settled—let us hope finally—all his friends and admirers offer him their sincere congratulations, and earnestly pray that he may long enjoy unclouded happiness which he so well deserves.

THE Resolution on the report on the legal affairs of the Government of Bengal for the last year shows that the percentage of Wards' decrees recovered, as compared with the realizations of the two preceding years, was extremely unsatisfactory during the year under review; it was only fourteen seven-ninths per cent. while it was eighteen in the previous year, and in the year before that it was nineteen three-fifths.

The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the percentage of recovery, both on Government decrees and Wards' decrees, is exceedingly bad. The most unsatisfactory feature of Government litigation in Bengal is that Government must of course make good to the uttermost farthing all adverse decrees, while it experiences the greatest difficulty in realizing the decrees in its favour, some of them being wholly infructuous. The Board of Revenue are of opinion that what is necessary to improve realization is greater energy on the part of the officers in the Executive Department. This remark of course applies only to Wards' decrees. As regards Government decrees,

Sir Stuart Bayley agrees with the opinion of his predecessor that small collections are due in a great measure to the facility for concealing property, to the joint family system, and to the prevalence of *benami* transaction, which offer almost insuperable obstacles to the realization of decrees, even by private persons. Sir Stuart Bayley has no doubt that the offences of fraudulent concealment, removal, transfer of property are of frequent occurrence in Bengal. Collectors, however, have some remedy in their own hands, as they might apply to the Magistrate in any fitting case to issue process under section 424 of the Penal Code, an offence, for the prosecution of which no sanction is required. The Lieutenant-Governor is not aware whether a commission upon realizations is now paid to Nazirs and their subordinates. If not, he thinks that the experiment might be tried. The Legal Remembrancer will be asked to report on this point.

The Report shows that the amount expended in litigation by Government during the year was Rs. 48,368, while the receipts amounted to only Rs. 13,367.

MAHARANI Sarnamayi has again come forward with a princely offer to help education in Bengal. She has offered to make an endowment of Rs.20,000 for the promotion of technical education in the Moorshedabad district, and with this view has proposed the following scheme. 'Of the sum of Rs. 20,000, Rs. 5,000 will be appropriated for the purpose of obtaining the necessary apparatus and instruments, and the income accruing from the investment of the remainder will be expended, in co-act with the Municipal Commissioners of Berhampore, on (1) the endowment of a class at the Berhampore Collegiate School to which the present technical school under the charge of the Municipal Commissioners will, together with its apparatus and materials, be transferred; and (2) the establishment of classes in connection with this technical class at some of the elementary schools maintained by, and situated within, the municipality.' The Lieutenant-Governor has accepted this munificent gift, and communicated to her his approval of the scheme which she proposes, and tendered his cordial thanks for her great liberality.

SPEAKING of the material condition of the people in the Rajshahye Division, the Commissioner says that it is at present good, owing to the favourable harvests of recent years, and the increased comfort of the cultivators and labouring classes in the present times of plenty. The Officiating Collector of Dinagepore, whose estimate is the lowest with regard to the material condition of the people, places the mass of the cultivating classes in his district half way in the scale of comfort between the same classes in Eastern Bengal and Behar, and remarks that, while there appears to him to be a great difference between the standard of comfort maintained by the ryots of Dinagepore and that of the Mymensingh ryots, there is, on the other hand, an absence of any appearance of actual squalor and want such as may be met with in the interior of a Behar district. The Commissioner, however, who has served in Dinagepore, takes a more cheerful view of the condition of the district, and writes as follows:—

'Rents in Dinagepore are low, land is still plentiful, though much waste and jungle has been reclaimed of late years, and the cultivator has a ready market for his produce. These are not conditions that tell against the welfare of the agricultural community, and the fact that the villagers can afford to import labour to carry on agricultural operations proves that their condition is good. I have always considered Dinagepore as pre-eminently a district where the ryots hold their own acres not liable to rack-renting, where, though the zemindars are poor, there are a large number of substantial ryots, mundols, jotedars, and others, through whose influence a system of village government prevailed; where generally the peasantry live in ease and content. It is true that some years have elapsed since I was Magistrate of Dinagepore; but I cannot think that the mere fact of the district having been since then opened out to trade can have had any evil effect on the condition of the people at large.

A proof of the general agricultural prosperity is found in the fact that while there is no emigration from the division, immigrant labourers come every year into all its seven districts to take part in the

harvesting and field work, and in road-making and tank-digging. In the year under review, the Assam-Bihar Railway works also, attracted large numbers of up-country labourers to Dinapore. A falling off in the number of immigrant labourers who came to work in the Julpigoree tea-gardens is ascribed to the fact that the unfair and illegal means were largely used by Assam recruiters both in the Chota Nagpore recruiting grounds and en route to divert the labourers to Assam. These accusations ought to have been enquired into at the time. If Assam recruiters offer higher terms than the Julpigoree recruiters and by fair means are able to persuade labourers to go to Assam in preference to the Julpigoree gardens, no grievance is established; but, it is the duty of the local officers to ensure that no fraud or compulsion is used to intending emigrants.

THE Dacca Administration report says that the agricultural classes are well-to-do and prosperous, but the literate classes, including office-seekers have to struggle with straitened circumstances and limited prospects. This is a gloomy view of things, and we greatly deplore it. The Collector of Dacca draws attention to the 'deterioration in the general condition of landed proprietors,' and is of opinion that it is the consequence of constant litigation and improvidence, and not of a depreciation in the value of landed property. We cannot endorse the Collector's views. This deterioration is a heritage of the suicidal policy embodied by Government in the Tenancy Act. It has already impoverished many families, and is sure to ruin all the landowners of Bengal to the great satisfaction of the framers of the Act. We are told that there is considerable tension between landlords and tenants in Backergunge, and still more in Mymensingh. There is yet great distress in store for the landed classes in Bengal from the dragons teeth that have been sown by the legislature.

REUTER telegraphs:—"The Indian Budget statement has been presented to the House of Commons. The prospect for 1887-88 is worse by £610,000 than when the estimates were framed in India, owing to the greatly increased charges on account of operations in Upper Burma, and the small amount realised from land there, the revenue of which yielded only half the amount estimated. It is hoped, however, that the growth of the Indian revenue will cover the estimated deficit. Sir J. Gorst, in his speech, strongly eulogised the justice, equity, and beneficence of the Indian Government in their dealings towards the people of India. Mr. Bradlaugh followed with some reflections on the grievances of the natives of India, especially in the matter of promotions in the Civil Service. Sir J. Gorst, replying, said that the Government must await the report of the Public Service Commission before entering upon any reforms or admitting more natives to the Civil Service.

WE have received the following from the Press Commissioner's Office:

'An International Exhibition of Science and Industry will be held in Brussels in May 1888. It would be under the patronage of His Majesty the King of the Belgians; and the Committee of management, which has been appointed by the Belgian Government, has for its Honorary President His Royal Highness the Count of Flanders.

It is said that this Exhibition will differ from all previous Exhibitions, in that the various scientific and industrial inventions, procedures and manufactures will be specially examined from a practical point of view and prizes awarded.'

ADVERTING to Dr. R. Mitra's letters to Messrs Eliot and Pedler, a friend writes from Bombay: "I am sorry we are losing all initiative in these matters. Politics were lost 60 years ago and upwards. But we are losing the direction of our houses. Medicine, Engineering, and Law are gone. A European doctor must certify your ill-health; he has the monopoly of drugging you; a European must build your houses; he makes laws of course and administers them. All our old stores of knowledge are thrown to the winds. A doctor of Bombay is crying hoarse

for a monopoly of drugging. I wish you could organize a Patsala for Ayurvedic medicine, with such changes as may be necessary, where certificates for proficiency may be granted after examination.'

At the last meeting of the Municipal Commissioners a question of considerable legal importance was raised by Babu Durgagati Banerjee; but it was hustled out by the Chairman. It appears that the Special Sub-Committee for Inspection of Meat, had recommended the passing of a byelaw empowering the Market Superintendent to inflict fines and to expel vendors from the market. The Babu contended that the Commissioners could not arrogate to themselves the functions of a Magistrate, much less to delegate such a power to any of their servants. All they could do was to frame byelaws under Section 313 of the Municipal Act, and on the infringement of any such byelaw, the only course open to them was to prosecute the offender. The Superintendent has no power to fine any vendor, nor could he expel any man from the market, unless he was convicted by a Magistrate under Section 314. The Chairman was not prepared to face the question with regard to its legal bearing, and so he had to fall on the usual resource of the unreasonable. He said:—"the penalty of small fine and of expulsion in serious cases had been exercised unquestioned for the last fifteen years; and these powers were absolutely necessary for the well working of the market." Yes, illegal power is necessary for making the market profitable, and to win the good will of the Health Society, and so illegal powers must be exercised at all hazards. It is a matter of wonder to see that so calm, quiet and law-abiding a person as Mr. Cotton should propound so strange a doctrine, and the Corporators should adopt it in all humility. It will rest now with the vendors to try the issue in the High Court, and bring the law-breakers to their bearing. A mandamus in such a case will at once show that in penal law there is no such thing as fifteen years' prescription. If prescription would justify illegal fine, Mr. Bartlett, a former Market Superintendent, should never have been dismissed. What would Mr. Cotton say if the owner of the Turret Bazar, or the Natan Bazar had, to make his bazar profitable, exercised the same power of fining? Had Mr. Cotton been a District Magistrate and a case of illegal fine by an owner of a private market been brought to his notice officially, we can easily conceive how fast enough he would have taught him the error of his ways. He cannot have forgotten the discussion about illegal cesses extorted by zemindars from frequenters of private markets, for it is likely enough that he himself wrote a report about it in the time of Sir George Campbell. But working under the malign influence of the Health Society, even he is made to gloss over illegal fines. He will, perhaps, tell us that the author of the recommendation is Mr. Simmons, an attorney, who is expected to know something of law; but it should be borne in mind that he is also the Secretary of the Health Society, which is now so busy in promoting sin by reintroducing the detestable C. D. Act. As to convenience, what applies to market fines applies likewise to all the twenty thousand municipal cases now set before our Honoraries and over one-half of which are dismissed, and some thousands of which have been denounced by the Chief Presidency Magistrate as false. If the heads of some departments have instituted false cases, what guarantee is there that the head of the market department will be above that failing, particularly when there will be no body above him to check his errors? It is with a feeling of pain that we write this, for we cherish sincere respect for Mr. Cotton, and would have gladly avoided the topic. But we cannot be too jealous of Penal laws.

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—14th September 1887.

GENERAL.—Babu Rash Behary Dutt, Sub-Deputy Collector, on special duty as a Sub-Manager of the Majumata and Jellamata estates, in the District of Midnapore, is allowed privilege leave for two months and two days, with effect from the date on which he avails himself of it.

The special leave for six months granted to Mr. J. A. Hopkins, C. S. under the order of the 11th February last has been commuted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India into furlough on medical certificate for seven and a half months.

Mr. A. L. Clay C. S., has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of furlough for one year.

Mr. G. K. Lyon, C. S., is appointed to act as Secretary to the Central Examination Committee, Calcutta, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. C. A. Samuels, or until further orders.

Mr. F. M. Halliday, Officiating Member of the Board of Revenue, is allowed leave for thirteen days, under section 72, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 3rd proximo.

Babu Kassy Kinkar Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Murshidabad, is allowed leave for one month, under section 72, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 20th instant.

The order of the 1st July last, granting Mohvi Mahomed-ul-Nobi, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, privilege leave for three months, is cancelled.

Mr. N. Wadia Jones, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nalpur, Rangoon, is allowed leave for one week under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 9th August last.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—Babu Atal Chunder Ghose, Additional Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh, is allowed leave for five months, under section 132, Chapter X of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 24th October 1887.

Babu Karuna Das B. Sc. Officiating Subordinate Judge of Dinapore, is appointed to act as Additional Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Atal Chunder Ghose, or until further orders.

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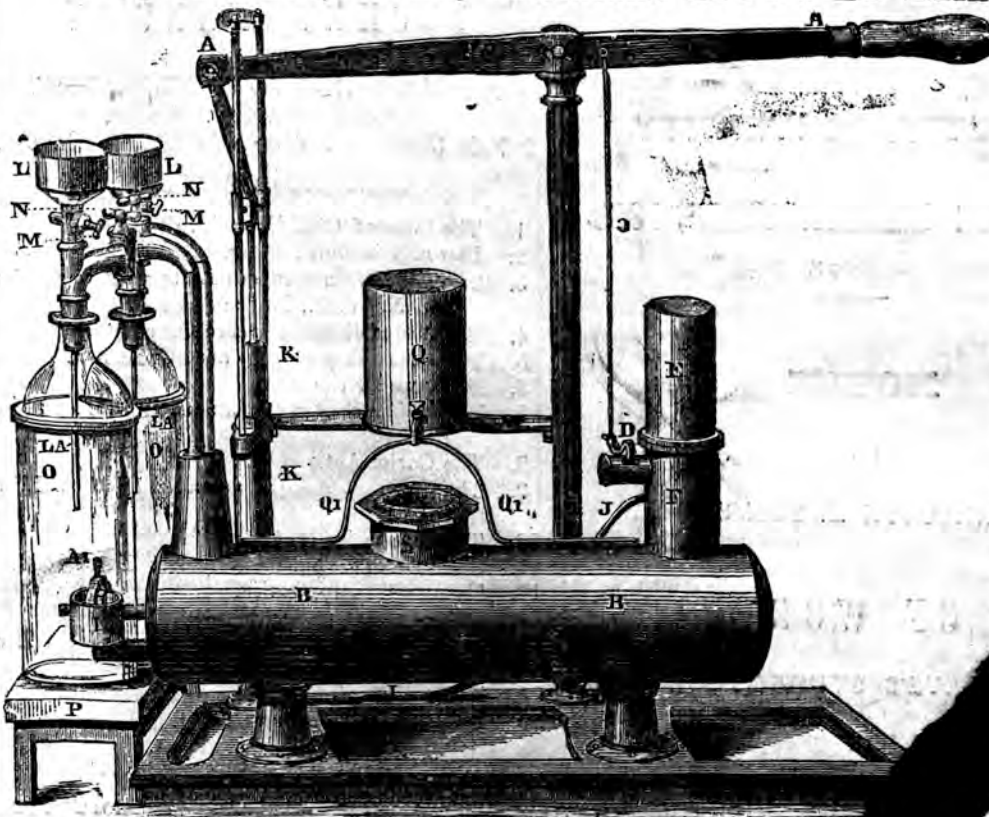
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The glasses which you sent me suit very well, I have much comfort from them, and I think my eye-sight is strengthened by them already.

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BODEN PROFESSORSHIP OF SANSKRIT

Preliminary Notice.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR gives notice that on the application of the Boden Professor of Sanskrit it is proposed to hold an election of a Deputy Professor in January, 1888.

The stipend about to be assigned to the Deputy Professor will be not less than £333.

A more formal notice with fuller particulars will be issued in November next.

Intending Candidates should be prepared to send in their applications to the Registrar of the University on or before January 16, 1888.

J. BELLAMY,
Vice-Chancellor.

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THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

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LOCAL.

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION,
CALCUTTA.

A half-yearly General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at their Hall on Wednesday, the 14th instant, at 4 P. M. Maharaja Narendrakrishna, Bahadur, President, in the chair.

There were present :—

Raja Doorga Churn Law, C. I. E., Raja Poorna Chunder Singh Bahadur, Nawab Mir Mahomed Ally, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, Rai Bahadur, L.L.D., C.I.E., Baboo Joykissen Mookerjee, Mr. J. Ghosal, Mr. Herjeebhoy Manickjee Rustomjee, Baboo Issur Chunder Mitra, Bejoy Kissen Mookerjee, Sita Nath Roy, Nundolal Gossain, Tincowrie Mookerjee of Seebpore, Hari Mohun Bose of Howrah, Charoo Chunder Mullick, Baikuntha Natha Basu, Jodoo Lal Mullick, Shama Churn Lahoorie, Amarendra Nath Chatterjee, Koonjolall Banerjee, Brojendra Kumar Roy Chowdhury, of Baripore, Rai Buddree Das Mukim Bahadur, Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C. S. I., and Baboo Rajkumar Sarvadhikari.

The Chairman in opening the meeting said :

Gentlemen,—In accordance with the instructions received from the Government of India, the Government of Bengal has requested our Association to express an opinion whether the Hindu community have objections to an amendment being made in the Code of Civil Procedure relating to the execution of decrees for the restitution of conjugal rights. A case lately occurred in Bombay where a young Hindoo lady, after receiving a liberal English education, on attaining her majority refused to live with her husband, to whom she was married at an early age, it being a marriage not preceded by the usual course of English courtship. Her English friends have succeeded, I imagine, in inducing the Government of Bombay to agree to the amendment in the law which would prevent a truant young wife being subject to its penal clause for refusing to associate with her husband. With an isolated case of a Hindoo lady, the Supreme Government would not be justified in complying with the wishes of the Bombay Government by enacting a law, baulversing the good old custom prevailing among the Hindoos for the settlement of the marriage of minors by their parents and guardians—a custom sanctioned by the Hindoo law and approved by Government from time immemorial; and has the deterrent effect on the evil propensities of frisky and thoughtless girls to stray away from their home. No Hindoo would like to send his wife to jail and associate with her on her release, not to mention her loss of caste by being an inmate of a prison. Probably the Government is not aware that this proposal has been started with the view of Anglicising respectable but imprudent Hindoo girls who have no idea of the miserable condition of being put out of caste and not permitted to live together in their own family circle, if they do not adhere to the established social usages of their country.

The President then in the name of the Committee of Management submitted a revised Code of Rules, and gave notice, under Rule 29, that he would at the next annual meeting, move that the draft rules embodying the conclusions arrived at by a Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose be adopted.

The President now called upon the Secretary to read the report of the Committee of Management.

The Secretary, thereupon, read the following report of the Committee of the Association on their working during the first six months of the current year.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Committee beg to submit the following report of their operations for the half year ending 30th June, 1887.

INCOME TAX.

Soon after the Income-Tax Act was put into operation, your Committee received several complaints regarding it. On the 9th of November last they had to draw the attention of the Secretary, Board of Revenue, to the "Replies to References," No. 10, 11 and 13, contained in pages 58 and 59 of Mr. Grimley's Income Tax Manual, in-

tended to serve rules for the guidance of District Officers and Income-Tax Assessors. The Committee stated that they believed that these replies embodied a wholly incorrect view of the law, and they requested the Secretary to move the Board to set these rules aside and prescribe others that might be expedient and proper.

They further took exception to the publication of these references and replies containing as they did the individual opinions of an officer whose position was calculated to give them the semblance of authoritative rulings for the guidance of subordinate officers. Such rulings have no claim to the legal force which belongs to the rulings of the Governor General in Council, the only authority empowered by law to frame rules, consistent with this Act, for ascertaining and determining income liable to assessment (Sec. 38), and can be looked upon simply as the personal opinions of the editor of the Manual. They also showed that in the three cases in question, Mr. Grimley had wholly overlooked the true test for determining whether a certain income was liable to the tax or not. In all cases in which the rents derived from fisheries, forests, markets or home-steads, in agricultural villages, have been entered in Road Cess Returns, they were not liable to be taxed a second time. The Committee believe that in almost all cases the rents derived from all these sources have been entered by landholders in the Cess Returns. The opinion, therefore, contained in the Manual that such rents are liable to the Income-Tax is wholly incorrect. If the rule laid down in the Manual be followed, double tax in a manner will be imposed on the same property. The Finance Minister emphatically observed in introducing the Bill, that if the License Tax with all direct taxation is abolished, the cesses on land which were introduced simultaneously with it in 1878, cannot be justly retained. The effect of the interpretation put upon the law by Mr. Grimley would be to add most unjustly to the direct taxation to which the landholders are already subject as regards certain sources of their income.

In reply to the above the Secretary to the Board of Revenue in his letter No. 1 B. wrote to say that the Board could not undertake to discuss in correspondence with this Association the propriety of the rules used by the Commissioner of Income-Tax, under the authority of the Board. It was, however, in this manner open to any person assessed, to contest his liability by a petition of objections, under Section 25 of the Act.

On the 26th January last, the Committee submitted a copy of the letter which they had addressed to the Board, and of the reply thereto, to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for his consideration and orders. They stated that the Income Tax Manual, edited by Mr. Grimley, contained 'Replies and References' which embodied interpretations of the law on certain points which they were advised, were wholly erroneous; that they had received numerous representations on the subject, from public bodies and individuals, complaining of those interpretations; and that they had accordingly represented the matter to the Board in the hope that the Board would take steps to set matters right by reference to the Governor-General in Council, or to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, according to the provisions of Sec. 38. But the disinclination expressed by the Board to discuss the question with the Committee, and the suggestion made by them to the effect that the aggrieved parties must have recourse to the regular procedure of appeal in every individual case, are greatly to be regretted, as the effect of the wide dissemination of an erroneous construction of law by an officer of Mr. Grimley's position would be the imposition of the tax in many cases in which it should not be imposed, and to leave the aggrieved parties in every instance to seek remedy by an expensive procedure of appeal. These interpretations are such as concern the entire body of landholders of these provinces, and involve a question of taxing certain sources of their income twice over.

The Government of Bengal in their reply No. 1898, dated 30th April last, forwarded copies of Mr. Grimley's explanation, and of the opinion of the Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, and stated that the Lieutenant-Governor accepted the Legal Remembrancer's views, and also Mr. Grimley's ex-

planation as correct; and that the Association had misapprehended the legal status conferred on the Commissioner of Income Tax in the rules framed under the Act.

On the 1st of July last, the Committee submitted for the second time another representation with the opinion of Mr. Woodroffe for the consideration and orders of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. No reply to it has yet been received.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

On the 3rd of January last, the Government of Bengal forwarded a letter from the Secretary to the Public Service Commission, together with a number of questions, for the opinion of your Committee, intimating at the same time the desire of the Commission that the replies to these questions should be confined to specific points on which the Association hold distinct opinions, or wish to bring forward particular facts, and that the reply should be sent to the Secretary, Government of Bengal, and not to the Public Service Commission. On the 4th February of last, your Committee submitted their replies to these questions.

Your Committee stated that the prevalent feeling regarding the present system of appointing of Natives as Statutory Civilians is one of dissatisfaction among all classes of the native Community. The present system does not secure the best men available, the best local talent, skill and experience that can be obtained; it does not provide an antecedent guarantee of fitness of the selected candidates, and it does not open the way to persons of superior capacity. The original intention of establishing the Statutory Service was to admit native gentlemen of proved merit and ability to places reserved for the Covenanted Service, but this intention has not been carried into effect. The two services are looked upon as entirely separate. The members of the statutory service occupy an anomalous position. They are neither members of the Covenanted, nor of the Uncovenanted Service; they are as men permitted to hold certain appointments by special favor of Government. No amendment of the provisions of Statute 33 Vic. Sec. 6. would satisfy the just aspirations of the people. The proper remedy for the existing dissatisfaction would be to actually and practically throw open the Covenanted Civil Service to the natives of this country, and to confine the operations of the Statute of 1870, by an amendment of the rules, and not by an amendment of the provisions of the Statute, to those to whom the doors of the Covenanted Service are necessarily closed. The provisions of the Statute of 1870 should be made available only for the purpose of appointing to posts, reserved for the Covenanted Service, such natives as it would be desirable to appoint to those offices by reason of their professional skill and tried abilities shown in the Uncovenanted Service. The statute should thus be used only for giving appointments, or promotions, to really deserving men whose age and want of Civil Service certificate would otherwise exclude them from such appointments. They should not be required to proceed to England for training. With regard to the Covenanted Service, your Committee observed that considerable dissatisfaction had been felt with the existing system of recruitment for the Civil Service; and that material changes should be made in that system. Young men are at present admitted at an age when they have not, and could not acquire, the necessary qualifications; and when their characters have not been formed. The evils of such a system were greatly to be deplored. The limit of age, in the opinion of the Committee, should be raised. People of this country labor under great disadvantages in competing for employment in the covenanted branch of public service. A journey to England entails loss of social position, great hardship and heavy expenses; and very few people can allow their boys to outrage native society by such an act, although they are able to provide the expenses of the journey and sojourn in England. The present limit of age is also a bar for youths leaving their houses at a time of life when their education has not sufficiently advanced, and they are exposed to all the evils and temptations incidental to a temporary residence in a large city, free from all control. The subjects also of the examination place native youths at a disadvan-

tage; while British youths can hope to attain a large number of marks in Latin or Greek, the native students are not given the same facilities for acquiring marks in Arabic or Sanskrit. The remedy lies not in the establishment of scholarships, but in altering the limit of age to 23, by raising the maximum marks assigned to Sanskrit and Arabic, and thus putting them on the same footing with Latin and Greek, and in holding simultaneous examinations in England and India. The examination held in India should be identical with that held in England. It should be held in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras; and the candidates in England and India should compete with one another, and be selected in order of merit. There should be no apportionment of appointments either on the score of residence, or religion. The successful candidates in India should not be required to proceed to England to complete their training, but means should be found by which they can complete it here during the period of probation. As regards the Uncovenanted Service, your Committee stated that it should be recruited from natives of India as defined in statute 33 Vic. Cap. 3, and not from all natural born subjects of Her Majesty. The recruitment should be made, only by open competition, by the Local Governments at their capitals. The competition should be perfectly free and open to all native candidates. The statutory Service should not be abolished, it should be reserved for such members of the Uncovenanted Service as by superior qualifications have deserved exceptional promotion. With regard to pay and furlough rules, your Committee have stated that no distinction should be made in the salaries attached to posts reserved for the Covenanted Civil Service, whether they are held by members of that service, or of the Uncovenanted Service, or by natives, but a personal allowance should be given to all European members on a fixed scale on the ground of their having come from a foreign and distant country. No distinction should be made in the Furlough Rules applicable to the statutory and the covenanted branches of the service on the ground of the nationality of the officers.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

On 6th of January last, the Under-Secretary of the Government of Bengal forwarded to your Committee, with his letter No. 979, a copy of a Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882, for an expression of opinion of the Association on Sec. 2 of the Bill. The Committee stated in their reply, dated the 18th of January last, that both as regards the number of special jurors and the definition of officer in charge of a public station, the amendments proposed to be made, appear to the Committee to be necessary.

LAW OF CIVIL WRONGS.

The Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, on the 10th January last, forwarded to your Committee, with his letter No. 182 J., the copy of a Bill to define and amend certain parts of the law of Civil Wrongs, and requested an early expression of the opinion of the Association on the provisions of the Bill. The Committee replied that any attempt to consolidate into one enactment the principles which govern or should govern the Indian Courts in the trial and decision of suits of Torts must be an extremely difficult one, and it would not be less so if it embraces only, as the draft Bill does, a part of the law relating to the subject. Though the principle of the draft Bill was formulated with great care, the Committee would still hold that it was wanting in method; that while it was unnecessarily minute as to certain particulars, it carried condensation to a fault, as regards others, and that the changes it proposed to introduce were far from being necessary or desirable. The definition of a wrong-doer being scattered over several sections would lead to as many cross classifications. To incorporate into one section the provisions of sections 8, 9, 10, 39, 40 and 42 would be impracticable. Sections 11 and 16 are certainly improvements, but sections 17 and 19 propose to extend the protection intended for judicial officers to all public officers. The Committee thought that the executive officers should continue to be responsible for acts done in excess of their authority, or without due discretion.

The Committee took exception also to the provisions of section 37, as it takes away from the category of the offence of defamation, acts which should be discouraged. The right of recapture by the owners of a moveable property in the possession of a wrong-doer, as provided in section 52, should be more clearly defined. The provisions regarding damages in Sec. 71 to 73 should be so modified as to embody the well-established principles on this subject, the more so as hundreds of rulings conflicting with one another have been passed on the subject by the High Court.

GILCHRIST SCHOLARSHIP.

The Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, with his letter No. 812G, dated 23rd September last, forwarded to the Committee the copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 66, dated 15th July last, together with a copy of the communication from the Secretary to the Trustees of Gilchrist Educational Trust, and requested their opinion on the subject.

Your Committee in their reply dated 11th January last, observed that in para 1 of the Trustees' letter, the Trustees announce that they resolve to withdraw the scholarship offered annually to youths in India, after the competitive examination in 1888, in consequence of the continued small competition for the same, but that they do desire to continue their connection with educational advancement in India, and to find some mode of expending such portion of the fund as they consider expedient for promoting that advancement on a more comprehensive scale. They had, therefore, invited opinions and suggestions on three points, viz., "whether scholarships tenable in England could be made an object of real emulation to the youths of India," 2ndly, whether it was desirable that the scholarship should be made tenable in India," 3rdly, "in case the second branch of the alternative be preferred, what should be the number, amount, length of tenure, and the institutions in which such scholarships may be held to the best advantage." Your Committee gave an affirmative reply to the first question. They stated that native students who wish to obtain the highest education find great difficulty in their way, as after acquiring what could be acquired in this country, they could not master the higher branches of study for which no provisions exist in this country, without going to England. The difficulty in the way of fair competition is mostly due to the amount of scholarship granted, as owing to religious, social and other reasons, none but indigent students only venture to go, and they cannot expect any pecuniary aid from home. The amount of scholarship should be such as can cover their entire expenses. The actual cost of a student for fees, boards &c., may be estimated at £250 a year, and unless that sum is paid in the way of scholarship, no competition can be expected in this country. They also suggested an extension of the period of the tenure of the scholarships to three years. The Committee further stated that if the plan suggested be not deemed practicable, scholarships might be established for the encouragement of the study of science, in the way detailed in their letter. As the Committee were not aware of the amount which the Trustees propose to devote for the purpose of Indian scholarships, the Committee could not name the number of scholarships to be fixed for India; they, however, stated that each scholarship should not exceed Rs. 500 or £50 a year, tenable for two years in the Presidency Colleges of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, where alone education in science was practicable to any satisfactory extent.

BILL FOR THE PROTECTION OF INVENTIONS AND DESIGNS.

The Government of Bengal with their letter No. 144, dated 4th February last, forwarded to the Committee the copy of a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the protection of Inventions and Designs, with a copy of the Statement of Objects and Reasons, and invited the opinion of the Association thereupon. In reply, the Committee in their letter No. 31, dated 24th February last, submitted that the primary

object of the Bill being to simplify the procedure, and make the administration of the law as conducive to public convenience as possible, the changes proposed in the law were, in the opinion of this Association, an improvement upon Act XV of 1859, but they ventured to draw the attention of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to one point which they supposed did not appear to be in keeping with the avowed object of the Bill. Section 15 provides that in the event of an invention not having proved fairly remunerative to the inventor, within the period of exclusive use fixed by law the Government should be given the discretion to extend the period to another 14 years. In the case of Designs, section 50 provides that when a design is registered the proprietor shall have the copyright in the design for 5 years, but is entirely silent about any subsequent extension; the Committee, therefore, suggested that for the purpose of affording adequate encouragement to the originator of designs, some such indulgence also might be given to him although under particular specified circumstances, Government might, when it found that the design was one of public utility, and the designer had not been adequately remunerated by the exclusive privilege already granted him, provide for an extension of 5 years from the expiration of the 1st term.

CALCUTTA PORT IMPROVEMENT ACT.

On the 23rd of March last, your Committee submitted to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor that the change proposed to be introduced in the constitution of the Port Commission of Calcutta, by a Bill 'to further amend the Calcutta Port Improvement Act, 1870,' appeared to be an improvement on the present system; as the trading and mercantile community would have a representative voice in the deliberations of the Board, to whose decisions all questions vitally affecting their interests were entrusted. It had been the practice for several years past to appoint members of European mercantile and trading firms to act from time to time on the Board along with official members, but the change now proposed of giving statutory effect to the principle of election in the appointment of members could not but prove satisfactory both to Government and the public; and that, as not an inconsiderable part of the commerce was carried on by native merchants, the Hon'ble Council should give full, and not partial, effect to it in practice. The Committee further stated that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce should not be given the franchise for electing four Commissioners as contemplated in the Bill. The Committee felt that it was hardly justifiable to exclude the entire body of the native merchants from the management of an institution so intimately connected with their profession. This distinction between the native and the European merchants should not be retained. The principle which justified election of commissioners applied equally to Europeans and natives, and there would be no difficulty in carrying it out for all classes of the community. The right to the franchise arose only on the ground of the profession and not on that of any political or quasi-political organization. The Committee, therefore, suggested that the entire body of natives and Europeans be given a voice in the Port Trust Board. Those merchants who pay Municipal license of Rs. 50 be allowed, under such rules as Government might make, to elect at least one half of the total number of commissioners of the Port Trust Board, the European members voting for one half and the native for the other. In conclusion, the Committee pointed out that the meaning of the last para. of Sec. 4 was very ambiguous, it being not clear whether Government would be bound to appoint two native members even if one or more of the elected commissioners be natives.

MUNICIPAL BILL FOR THE TOWN AND SUBURBS OF CALCUTTA.

On the 15th of April last, the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Legislative Department, with his letter No. 55, forwarded a copy of the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Municipal affairs of the town and Suburbs of Calcutta, and invited your Committee to submit any remarks or suggestions they could give regarding the provisions of the Bill. The Bill as revised by the Select Committee has since been published. Some of the objectionable features of the Bill have been removed, but there are still many provisions in it which the Committee deem highly objectionable. They have appointed a sub-committee to draft a letter to Government on the subject, and the subject is at present in their consideration.

ENROLMENT OF VAKUELS AS ADVOCATES.

Your Committee, on the 6th of June last, wrote to the Secretary, Vakeels' Association, High Court, requesting him to communicate to this Association the views of his Association as to whether in the interests of the public as well as the members of native bar, it would be desirable that a number of selected Vakeels, or Vakeels of a certain standing, should be enrolled as advocates and allowed to practice in the Original Side of the High Court. On the 10th of June last, the Secretary of the Vakeels' Association gave a reply in the affirmative, viz. that Vakeels who are of a certain standing should be admitted and enrolled as advocates so as to entitle them to practise in all sides of the High Court. He stated further that enrolment should not be by selection only. It has been resolved by your Committee to submit a memorial to the Chief Justice praying that Vakeels of a certain standing be allowed the privilege of practising in all sides of the High Court.

RELIEF OF THE SUFFERERS FROM THE WRECK OF
Sir John Lawrence.

Your Secretary, on the 6th of June last, wrote a letter to Sir Alexander Wilson, the Chairman of the Lawrence and Retriever Relief Fund, requesting him to be informed whether he would call a public meeting for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the relief of the families of the lost Poori Pilgrims or would invite subscriptions for the purpose through the Press. He suggested that the various public bodies might be appropriately united to co-operate in the matter. Sir Alexander Wilson replied that as he had invited subscriptions through the Press, and Mr. Smythe of Messrs. Turner Morrison and Co., Mr. George Dickinson of Messrs. Macneil and Co. and Mr. S. E. J. Clarke had associated themselves in organizing and distributing a relief fund, he would not call a public meeting to raise subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers. He stated that the co-operation of your Committee would be of much value to him, and he would give his best consideration, if any cases be brought to his notice by the Association.

In reply to the above, your Committee, on the 9th idem, wrote to say that they would heartily co-operate in the work, and that they would send a subscription-book round to the members for their contributions. There were really very few who were the bread-winners of their families. The Committee would not, however, fail to bring to his notice all such cases which would be really deserving of relief.

BRANCH RAILWAY LINE TO PURI.

On the 17th of June last, your Committee submitted a memorial to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying for the construction of a Branch Line of Railway connecting the province of Orissa and its chief towns Puri and Cuttack, with the projected Bengal Nagpur Railway. They urged that the hardships and privations which thousands of pilgrims to the Jugunnath have annually to undergo, the epidemic diseases caused in consequence thereof, and the heavy mortality resulting therefrom, have led the Association to think that some easier means of communication was desirable between Puri and the other provinces of the Empire. Easy access to Orissa by Railway would also tend to the development of trade and commerce. It being a fertile province, and at the same time often subject to famines by its peculiar physical aspects, great difficulty was felt during the famine of 1865-1866, when supplies could not be promptly obtained. They stated that as the construction of the proposed Bengal Nagpur (Imperial) State Railway had been sanctioned by Government, a Branch Line could easily be constructed connecting Puri with Bengal, the North West Provinces and Bombay. A station had been proposed to be built at Panchpara about 240 miles west from the junction of the East Indian and the Bengal Nagpur Railways, and if Assensole or Barakhur be fixed for such junction which lies 382 miles from Nagpur, the proposed Branch Line would not be more than 231 miles. Several routes were surveyed, but none offered comparatively so few engineering difficulties as this route. Commercially this line would also prove very profitable both for passenger and goods traffic. The Committee also pointed out that the revenue from the canals in Orissa would not in any way be affected, they being intended solely for irrigation purposes. This line, if constructed, would also open the way for trade with the Central Provinces and Bombay, and facilitate thereby the employment of poor people in those provinces who usually resort in crowds to Calcutta.

In reply to the above the Bengal Government in their letter No. 477R, dated 27th June 1887, stated that the above communication had been submitted

for the consideration of the Government of India and that the Bengal Government would give full support to the proposal submitted by your Committee.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT IN LONDON OF AN IMPERIAL
INSTITUTE IN COMMEMORATION OF HER MAJESTY'S
JUBILEE.

The Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in his letter No. 302, dated 23rd January last, forwarded a copy of a Circular, No. 3, dated 21st Idem, from the Revenue and Agricultural Department of the Government of India, together with a copy of its enclosure on the subject of the proposed establishment in London of an Imperial Institute in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee. Your Committee thereupon called a public meeting in which a Committee was duly appointed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions. They are glad to say that the subscriptions have come up to a large figure.

THE PURI ENDOWMENT GRIEVANCE.

The attention of your Committee was directed to the Puri Endowment suit instituted by Government. The superintendence of the temple of Jugunnath and its interior economy were always vested in the Raja of Khoordah. Act X of 1840 enacted that such superintendence "shall continue vested in the Raja of Khoordah for the time being." When Raja Debva Singh was transported for life in 1878, his minor son assumed the title of Raja and the superintendence remained in the hands of the old Ranees (the mother of the transported Raja). The Government of India at first objected to the assumption of the title by the minor, but ultimately conferred the title on the ground of personal sanctity. Soon after the sentence of transportation, the District officer attempted to institute a case under section 539 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the transfer of the management of the temple to a Committee, but Act 1840 was found a bar in his way. When, therefore, the Code of 1877 was amended in 1882, sec. 539 was materially modified by the addition of a new clause. This addition was made at the last moment; it was not in the Bill, nor was it in the Schedule of repealed enactments appended to the Act.

Government then with the advice of the Advocate-General instituted a suit for the transfer of the management. It was contested on behalf of the Minor Raja that the right of superintendence was hereditary and that certain ceremonies connected with the temple were to be performed by the Raja alone. A change of superintendence would be an interference with the religion of the people. Public bodies protested against the prosecution of the suit which was prejudicial to the feelings of the people. As Government afterwards withdrew the suit, your Committee took no further steps regarding the above.

OBITUARY

The Committee deeply regret to announce the severe loss which the Association has sustained by the death of the following members: Babu Kally Mohun Das and Babu Muddon Mohun Chatterjee.

Proposed by Babu Brajendra Kumar Roy Chaudhuri, and seconded by Babu Shama Charan Lahiri that the report be accepted. *Carried.*

Babu Joy Kissen Mukerji said:

Gentlemen,—It is a matter of general complaint in several districts in these provinces, that by the gradual sifting up of rivers, *khalas*, and other outlets of water, the drainage of the land has become very defective, and that while it materially affects the agriculture of the country, it is a source of heavy loss both to landholders and ryots. The zemindars are altogether powerless to remedy the evil. If the *khal* or channel passed through the estate of a single zemindar he could easily put it into an efficient condition, but the work of excavation and clearance becomes impossible in most cases, as it cannot be done without the consent and co-operation of a number of landholders and perhaps also of *lakhirajdars*. The conflicting interests of the parties in some cases, and the difficulty of getting the legal consent of female and minor proprietors, are the usual obstacles in the way of any such improvement. The consequence of this state of things is that large tracts of land and fields are found running into waste but which, if efficiently drained, could have been cultivated with advantage both to the proprietors and the community. With a view to give proprietors of land some means for remedying an evil which has proved disastrous to many small landholders, the Bengal Council passed, in 1880, what is known as the "Bengal Drainage Act," being Act VI of that year. But that law provides such an elaborate and expensive procedure for the execution of drainage schemes as practically to deter

landholders from availing themselves of its provisions. It vests, no doubt, the power of maturing the scheme and superintending the work in a committee composed principally of landholders, but instead of allowing the work to be done under the contract system, it provides for its execution by officers to be appointed by the Government who are invariably officers of the Public Works Department. The cost of the works done by the Public Works Department is proverbially exorbitant. We all know how the realisation of the charge on account of the Dankony Canal proved the ruin of several landholders, ryots, and *lakhirajdars*. In another case the estimate for the work had to be revised on different dates by different engineering officers, and I know that the cost rose from six lakhs—the amount originally estimated—to thirteen lakhs. What confidence can the people have in the economical execution of works by the P. W. D. when they have such instances before them? Again, the provision which the Act makes for the recovery of the cost by landholders from their ryots is anything but satisfactory. It gives the landholders the power to enhance the rent of the ryots, or to recover from them amounts proportionate to their holdings. These powers, however, are qualified with restrictions which throw the main burden of the cost upon the landholders and prevent their getting anything like an adequate return. Since the passing of the Act practical experience has shown that some of its provisions are altogether unworkable. To every one who has had to do anything with the operation of the Act, it is clear that several of its provisions require material amendment. In view of the great loss which landholders, ryots and the community generally are suffering, we can no longer do without the enactment of a thoroughly practical and workable law of drainage. I beg, therefore, to move that this Association will represent the matter to the Bengal Government with a view to get the Drainage Act amended.

Babu Joykissen Mukerji then moved that the Association respectfully represent to the Government of Bengal the urgent necessity of amending Act VI. of 1880 (B. C.). The motion was seconded by Raja Purna Chandra Singh, and *carried.*

Babu Jodulal Mullick then spoke as follows:

Gentlemen,—At the last annual meeting I had occasion to draw the attention of the members of this Association to two very important subjects. The first of these related to the subject of the pilgrimage to Pooree, and I see that since then the Association has considered the question of a railway to Pooree, and has submitted a memorial to the Government of India, through the Government of Bengal. You have already heard from the half-yearly report read by your Secretary, what the Bengal Government has said on the subject, and I think, judging from the resolution of the Government of India on the subject, dated the 12th August last, that the Government are quite alive to the importance of this line, which will be divided into two sections. One section will be from Mogulserai to Chundil station on the Nagpore-Sitarampore line, and another from the Panchpara station on the same line, on to Pooree. This line will connect Orissa with Bengal and Behar, and the North-Western Provinces, and I have heard that there is a Company ready in England to take up the line from Panchpara to Pooree, if the necessary concession be granted to them. Such being the case, gentlemen, I think the Committee deserve the thanks of the public for the interest they have taken in the matter. As regards the subject of a Water-supply Scheme for Pooree, I am glad to be able to inform you that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered all the papers on the subject to be printed, and a scheme to be drawn up by a responsible officer of Government. This duty, I am glad to say, has been assigned to the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department, and I can tell you that so far he is just the man to be entrusted with the duty. Now that the papers on the subject have all been printed, I think the Committee might direct its early attention to the matter. The third subject which I mentioned last year related to the Municipal Bill, in regard to which I am sorry to observe no progress has been made. If the landholders of Calcutta will only look into its provisions carefully, I think they will find many objectionable sections in it. I would direct the attention of the Committee to this subject, and ask the Secretary to lose no time to have it thoroughly discussed, and a representation sent in to the Legislative Department of the Bengal Secretariat. Then there is another subject to which I would also like to draw attention, namely, the irreparable loss sustained by the com-

munity in the foundering of the steamer *Sir John Lawrence*. I think the Association should go up to Government with a representation, deduced from the light of the inquiry just closed, and endeavour to prevent a recurrence of the scandalous way in which the Port Commissioners discharge the very responsible duties entrusted to them.

Babu Nandalal Gossain made a short speech pointing out the defects of the elective system, in Mufassil Municipalities. The present system, he said, compels the personal attendance of the voters at the polling booths. He said that this compulsory rule kept back many respectable persons from coming forward as voters. He was of opinion that the system of voting by writing, which obtained in Calcutta, should be adopted in the Mufassil.

He moved that the Association urge upon the Government the desirability of substituting the system of *voting by writing* in place of voting *personally*, which at present obtains in the Mufassil.

The motion was seconded by Babu Hari Mohun Bose.

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra said that it was furthest from his wish to oppose the resolution which had been put before the meeting, and yet he thought that it would be judicious on their part not to be hasty. The Mufassil Municipalities Act was passed only the other day, and in all matters of this kind it was proper that they should give full time for the experiment before they prayed for a change. There would be no end of changes if every six months or so they wanted change in one thing or another. He believed their Association represented that the proper course for Mufassil elections in this country should be by written votes. He was well aware that there was a strong feeling amongst the higher classes and the higher middle classes of the community against attending polling booths, and it was exceedingly hard to induce people to attend these booths, and in such cases it was right and proper that there should be some means of voting without the necessity of going to a polling booth. But they must not forget that the primary object at elections was the manifestation of the voter and of his willingness and earnestness to do what he was called on to do. If he was too proud, too negligent, too much inflated with his own sense of dignity, not to come forward to vote for his representative, he had no right to vote. It was right and proper in all matters of this kind that men should come forward openly, and declare what their convictions were and whom they selected. If they could not do so, they were unworthy of enjoying the privilege of the Franchise and forfeited his right to vote. That was the only general principle, but there was a practical difficulty of much greater weight than this, and that was were they prepared to say that with written votes in the Mufassil the amount of forgery would not be multiplied manifold? or that the signatures of A. B. and C. would be the true ones on the voting papers? Again how many thousands of witnesses must they bring in to attest the signatures of all voters? Was this a prospect in any way one which they should encourage or view with favor? Would there not be no end to forgery and false personifications in such cases? How would it be discovered? The moral evil, in his opinion, would be infinitely greater than the good which would be derived from voters refraining from going down to

the polling booths. This view of the question should be very carefully considered before they went up to the Government for any change in the existing system. Besides, were they prepared to go up to the Government with a sufficiency of evidence to show that the present system was extremely defective, and that it was absolutely necessary for the good of the Government and for the good of the country that the law shall be changed? At present it was entirely a matter of opinion, and therefore he thought the proper course for them would be to wait. If in three or four years the experiment failed, that elections were only confined to the lowest classes and that the higher and middle classes did not vote, it would then be time for them to ask for a change. There had been only one election as yet under the Act, and after that one election they have not got a sufficiency of facts and figures to show the advantages and disadvantages of the system which had been in the Mufassil. In most places in India these elections were a new thing, and no doubt difficulties have arisen which after a second or a third attempt would disappear. In Calcutta at the first election, the number of voters was something under 5000 and at the last election the number of voters came to something like 40,000. If this was the case in Calcutta, they might fairly calculate upon great improvement in the Mufassil after another trial or two. Wait till another trial had been made, and then it would be time enough for them to consider whether they should go up to the Government for a change. He objected to the resolution because he disliked the idea of their Association moving in a matter in which it had not got sufficient evidence on which to base arguments with that weight and permanence which it was desirable that the Association should command before the Government in all questions with which they dealt. This they could not do at present, and he therefore advised the mover of the amendment to withdraw it for the present, and leave it with the Managing Committee of the Association to consider whether it was advisable to go on with it. They could not in a matter like this resolve offhand.

Babu Nandalal Gossain then put his resolution in the following modified form, namely, "that the method of the election of Municipal Commissioners in the Mufassil be considered by the Committee of the British Indian Association," which was accepted and carried.

Babu Amarendra Nath Chatterji moved that a Standing Committee be appointed to watch, note and report upon the operation of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, in opposing the resolution, pointed out that though there was, strictly speaking, no privity between the Association and the Committee of the Landholders' Association, still they were in this matter of the Tenancy Act the same to all wants and purposes, and that committee was still in existence and had more than an agent watching the operation of the Act in the districts. That being the case it seemed to him it would be mere surplage to have another sub-committee here. He would add, and this was a private and personal consideration, that he believed most of the members of the other com-

mittee were all members of the British Indian Association who would feel very reluctant, and it would be a waste of their time, to attend two or three meetings of different committees for the same purpose. He was a member of the Association as well as a member of that committee, and he should be very reluctant to get up another committee there to consider exactly the same thing that the others were already dealing with. If they could show that the other committee was not doing what it should do, that it had failed, then certainly by all means have another committee, but do not throw a slur upon the existing Committee by appointing another when there was no necessity for such a body. The Association should rather draw the attention of that Committee to any point to which attention should be drawn or which it was proper for them to consider. He did not think that Committee should be set aside by a resolution appointing an identical and similar Committee.

The mover then withdrew his motion.

Babu Issur Chunder Mittra said:

"As one who has lately joined this body it is rather impertinent in me to address you especially at the fagend of the proceedings, but I trust it will be found if you will bear with me for a few minutes, that the matter to which I wish to draw your attention is of some importance. I allude to the spread of out-stills in the districts of this Province.

Every one is aware that English divines and English statesmen are ventilating in England and here in this country we have the Rev. Thos Evans, consistently and persistently taking a deep interest in denouncing the out-still system and advocating the cause of temperance and sobriety. This being so, it behoves us as children of the soil to take some interest in the matter, and I think that the British Indian Association and other public bodies should interest themselves in it.

The policy of the Government is certainly not to increase the consumption of liquor; it is simply to tax the actual consumption and to that end to prevent smuggling. But the question is, drunkenness having fearfully increased, how much of the increase is due to administration or to the spread of outstills in the country? Ten years ago, before the re-introduction of the outstill system—this system was in operation in the middle of the century—ten years ago an Inspector on a high salary was appointed in the 24 Pergunnas district to detect cases of illicit distillation. That any very serious cases of unauthorised manufacture of spirits were found is not known. Sometime after this outstills were opened in the Sunderbans and in the southern parts of the district, and not long afterward respectable people had to complain of drunken brawls, in which the lower orders and the lower middle classes joined, in places where indulgence in alcoholic drinks had before not been heard of. Out-stills have been opened in the district of Howrah. Loud complaints are made that these are opened even in places where the people would not have them. The papers have noticed disturbances caused, and even crimes committed, owing to the opening of an out-still at a place called Chandipur. Is the increase in drunkenness due to the opening of the out-stills? It is, I believe, with reference to the Government action in this respect that Mr. Smith is going to move in Parliament that "the increasing consumption of alcoholic drinks calls for a change in the licensing system in the interests of sobriety."

I do not wish to move any substantive resolution, but I think the matter deserves enquiry and the earnest and serious consideration of your Committee."